

A tale of two Dons

In the race to WLUSU's ivory tower, Allison and Hocking fight to prove presidential worthiness
see **FEATURE, PAGE 12-13**

THE OTHER ELECTIONS

PIRG welcomes an acclaimed board while re-opened nominations meant a director race for WLUSP... **PAGES 3-4**

BLISSFUL IGNORANCE

Why the hard work WLUSU's politicians do goes to waste and why student democracy is a joke at this university... **PAGE 20**

STUDENT PUBS' PICKS

Can't decide who to vote for? Check out the opinions of our informed Cord and Blueprint volunteers... **PAGE 23**



LOOKS OF DISGUST - There was obvious animosity between candidates Yusuf Faqiri and Lauren McNiven at the election forum yesterday.

Open forum turns ugly

VP: University Affairs race reaches boiling point

STEVE NILES
STAFF WRITER

In what was described by candidate Yusuf Faqiri as a "comedy show," Tuesday's Open Forum continued what has already become a controversial campaign.

Following routine sessions involving the acclaimed Board of Governors, Senate, and Board of

Directors members, the debate between vice president: university affairs candidates Lauren McNiven and Yusuf Faqiri reached another level of disdain.

Within minutes of the question period being opened, individuals from both campaign teams set the contentious tone for the debate that continued for most of the hour.

After both candidates briefly discussed their platforms, McNiven had a question directed at her related to her Facebook profile and how it had previously offended women. An obviously confused McNiven was quick to downplay the issue.

"In no way was [my profile] meant to mock women," she said. "It's pretty ridiculous if this is one of your major concerns for me coming into this role.... I think you

need to reevaluate your view of student politicians and what your needs are on campus."

A later question, directed at Faqiri, questioned his poor attendance at past Board of Directors meetings. Much like his opponent, Faqiri declined to talk about his personal life but rather pointed towards his activities outside of the boardroom.

- SEE **FORUM**, PAGE 2

Breast art for cancer

Fine arts student wants women to bare it all for a unique campaign

CHELSEA GASKO
STAFF WRITER

While most of us devote a few all-nighters to a final assignment, Nikole Fraser has taken her fourth-year art project to the next level. What started as a desire to represent women through art has turned into a year-long campaign devoted to breast cancer awareness and fundraising.

The concept is simple yet inventive, and the final result will be a set of three four-foot-by-four-foot canvases filled with pink paint impressions of women's breasts. The impressions are abstract in that they are not recognizable as breasts and yet the underlying meaning is there.

"I chose breasts because breasts obviously represent women," Fraser says. The pieces provoke thought about breast cancer and its effects, and reinforce the concept that there is true beauty in each

- SEE **BREASTS**, PAGE 14

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1920 -

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Waterloo, Ontario
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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 2007

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 20

Next Issue: February 7

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I like it when it's rough."
- Editor-in-Chief April Robinson,
referring to Tuesday's Open Forum

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COLOPHON

The Cord Weekly is the official student newspaper of
the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1920 as the College Cord, The Cord Weekly is an
editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid
Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a
corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its
board of directors.



Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and
do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board, The Cord,
WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running
OS X.2 using Adobe Creative Suite 2 (InDesign, Photoshop,
Acrobat, Distiller and Illustrator) and Quark Xpress 6.1. Canon
Rebel XT R.O. megapixel digital cameras are used for principal
photography.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the
Ontario Press Council since 2006.
Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent
to the Council at info@ontariopress.com.



The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 7,000
copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000.

Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within
Canada.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member
of the Canadian University Press (CUP).
since 2004.



Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and
expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all
relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in
a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical
conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of
commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged
promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or
an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to
reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest
will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it,
and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special
focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of
Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns
of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The
Cord will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in
its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and
freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate
and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the
paper, and through The Cord's contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of
neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so
shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Graduate studies expands

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

In keeping with the school's plan of growth, Laurier plans to offer six new graduate programs, expected to be in place for next fall.

Currently Laurier offers 17 Masters and nine PhD programs, and thus it's hard to overlook what a big stride this is in Laurier's shift to becoming a more comprehensive university.

Dr. Joan Norris, dean of graduate studies, is thrilled with the current atmosphere of the graduate studies department. "This is a period of real energy and so many ideas," she boasts.

Although this year has been a chaotic journey for Norris, she revels at what has been accomplished. After a very bureaucratic process of forming a detailed proposal and undergoing review by both the graduate studies council

and the senate, their visions are finally beginning to take a concrete form.

The visitation of Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) representatives to the campus has started, and approval to commence has thus far been granted to three of the six proposed programs. OCGS is a group that ensures quality of education and research within graduate programs across Ontario.

The new programs include a Masters in International Public Policy, Masters in Sociology and a PhD in Global Governance (a joint program with UW). Programs still awaiting the go-ahead are Masters in Philosophy, MSc in Integrative Biology and Masters in Cultural Analysis and Social Theory.

With these recent OCGS approvals, the application process has begun and thus far there seems to be a substantial amount of student

interest. And although they can't be officially accepted, applications have even been submitted for programs still awaiting final authorization.

Although the university's target for graduate student growth is only set for 80 students, Sue Horton, VP of Academics, is optimistic that these numbers will enhance the experience of everyone at Laurier. "When there are a larger number of students in research programs and more in PhD programs, I think it will be more of a thriving community."

Horton feels that the mere presence of graduate students in classrooms can be an inspiration to undergraduates. "I think it helps the undergraduates to see their peers who are only a little bit further along in their education. It bridges the gap between them and the faculty and gives undergrads the opportunity to see what they could

aspire towards."

An increase in grad students is also expected to provide faculty members with additional resources when teaching larger classes. With an increased assistance in areas such as grading and tutorial/discussion groups, staff will be given more opportunity to concentrate on their own areas of research.

Norris hopes that the new graduate programs will not only inspire faculty to extend their time at Laurier, but students as well. "We've had really excellent students, many of whom have gone other places for programs. Now I would like for them to think about us before they do that."

With the vast array of programs arriving at Laurier in the next few years it seems that many students will have the opportunity to do just that.

BOD, presidential forum less dramatic



Tony Ferguson

SLOW FORUM FOR 'EM - The acclaimed 2007-08 Board of Directors gave their speeches to a sparse morning crowd in the concourse.

- FROM FORUM, COVER

"I've addressed my problems from last year," he said. "I have done a lot outside of [the board room]."

Faqiri was also forced into responding to questions related to claims of what people called his homophobic and anti-Semitic attitudes. Faqiri has admitted to using a word derogatory towards homosexuals.

"It's a mistake when I made that comment once, it's a mistake that I regret quite profoundly," he said.

"In regards to the anti-Semitic comment... I am actually appalled with that comment. I am not an anti-Semite. The dialogues in the Cord articles were maybe intended to promote dialogue," he added.

After questions followed relating to specific initiatives sought by both candidates, the discussion once again turned to personal attacks when McNiven was forced to answer a question related to a po-

tentially slanderous email distributed by members of her campaign team.

Chief Returning Officer Josh Periard appealed to students to ask more pertinent questions.

"This is an open forum. You're to ask questions based on platforms," he said. "Let's try to stay away from anything that may be slanderous."

Unfortunately, the attacks against both candidates continued for the remainder of the open forum. Faqiri was chastised by one student for his platform mistake regarding the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, while McNiven was criticized for her BOD vote against the reopening of nominations for BOD candidates.

The most telling question came when the candidates were asked to identify a characteristic of their opponent that would make them a strong VP: UA. Despite McNiven saying that Yusuf was "not a great candidate," she praised Faqiri's passion for the job and his inter-

action with students. Faqiri, however, immediately avoided giving an answer.

When he was prompted to answer the question and say what he sees in McNiven that makes her a good candidate, Yusuf said, "I don't see anything."

The Presidential Forum between hopefuls Dan Hocking and Dan Allison was far less dramatic but still not without controversy.

The session once again began with opening statements in which the candidates outlined their platforms. Once the floor was opened to questions, both campaign teams had lengthy lists of questions for the candidates, both of whom were clearly prepared.

The discussion became controversial in the latter half of the discussion when Hocking was asked to comment on an alleged student survey that labeled him inapproachable. This survey, which Hocking immediately questioned, left current WLUSU president Al-

lan Cayenne, who was unaware of its existence, with a puzzled look on his face.

Hocking was not afraid to mince words in his response.

"I question the methodology and the sample of your survey, because if you go into my marketing lab, they'll tell you a different story," he said.

"I have shown that I am approachable."

Hocking was also later asked to justify the hiring of his girlfriend as coordinator of RadioLaurier. In response, he explained the anonymity of the process and detailed how the hiring process was legitimate.

Allison was also forced onto the defensive when asked about his management record and lack of experience within WLUSU.

The election takes place tomorrow, with polls open from 8 am until 7:30 pm.

> VOCAL CORD

Will you be voting in the WLUSU election on Thursday?



"Yes, because it's important to hear the student voice."

- The Dans
WLUSU Presidential Candidates



"Probably not because I don't know enough about the candidates."

- Scott Cherry
First-year Political Science



"I'm not voting because it would be just for the sake of voting."

- Letizia Ferroia
First-year History



"Yes, because it's important to have your voice heard."

- Jacek Hatta
Second-year Geography



"Yes because I dated a candidate in Grade 8."

- Rob Hayes
Fourth-year Global Studies

WLU adds fifth female dean

New dean of science continues Laurier's innovative trend of women in high places

MIKE BROWN
NEWS EDITOR

At a meeting of the Board of Governors last Thursday, Dr. Deborah MacLatchy was named Laurier's new dean of science, effective July 1, taking over from Dr. Arthur Szabo.

She becomes WLU's fifth female dean, leaving Arts, Music and Brantford as the only faculties not headed by a woman.

This puts WLU in a rather unique position, said Dr. Sue Horton, VP: Academic, who said she was fairly certain this makes us the only school in Canada with more female deans than male. It also puts us alongside Lakehead and Regina as the only schools in the country with a female dean of science.

"I think that some of the more traditional universities - they're not as quick to recognize that the best person might be a woman, and I'd like to think we're more open-minded here," explains Horton.

For her part, MacLatchy has noticed a distinct increase of women in the biological sciences and in administrative positions, but still thinks headway needs to be made in the physical sciences, engineering and math. She thinks this can be achieved by appealing to them with different recruiting tactics.

"Women are very interested in careers in which the opportunities contribute to society," she said by phone from New Brunswick. "They tend to be more interested in engineering, computer science careers when they can actually see that there's going to be a role for them - sort of a bigger picture."

Despite her excitement that MacLatchy will provide a good role model for the young female faculty, Horton described the recent proliferation of female deans at WLU as coincidental. "I think that's not the overriding consideration. I think you want to choose the best person."

MacLatchy, currently the dean at the smaller University of New Brunswick, Saint John, boasts experience, a strong research portfolio, a history of linking community and university and an international focus - all of which align her aptly with the university's current direction.

"Science has always been global," she explains. "I'm particularly interested in how we transfer technology, for example, from developed countries into developing countries."

"One of my big concerns, for example, is I want to work in Cuba and look at protection of the coral reefs there.... I think we all have a global responsibility for - it's kind



Courtesy of Deborah MacLatchy

IT'S SCIENCE - Dr. Deb MacLatchy brings diverse portfolio to WLU.

of cliché - for the health of the planet, but I think scientists particularly have a responsibility."

MacLatchy wants to "have people buzzing about what's going on in science at Laurier" and bring the program out of the shadow of nearby Waterloo, Guelph and McMaster.

She also spoke of a desire to raise the profile of the science faculty to non-science students.

"We have to focus as well on how fundamental it is that students have a good grounding in science literacy," she said. "That

goes whether you're a business student or an arts student or whatever - that that's as important as a science student taking a poli sci course or a soc course."

"You can sort out what the Tories and Liberals are saying about Kyoto and climate change and the rest of it. A level of science literacy lets you understand the issues on a different level than just being able to read the *Globe and Mail*."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

Interest Group directors acclaimed

Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group acclaimed their board of directors last week

TONY FERGUSON
NEWS EDITOR

The Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG)

ushered in their new board of directors Thursday night at the LSPIRG annual general meeting in the Paul Martin centre. Bryn Ossington, John Clements, Janice Lee,

Jacob Pries, Kate Manktelow and Josh Smyth were all acclaimed.

Manktelow was ecstatic about getting on the board for her third term. A member of PIRG for two years, she plans to focus on the more under-represented portions of the student body. "I want to be a voice for the students," she said.

Although she was disappointed

in the lack of competition in this year's election, she remains confident in the new board. "Everyone is really strong," she said.

Jacob Pries, also acclaimed to the 2007-2008 LSPIRG board, plans to play a recruiting role in his new term.

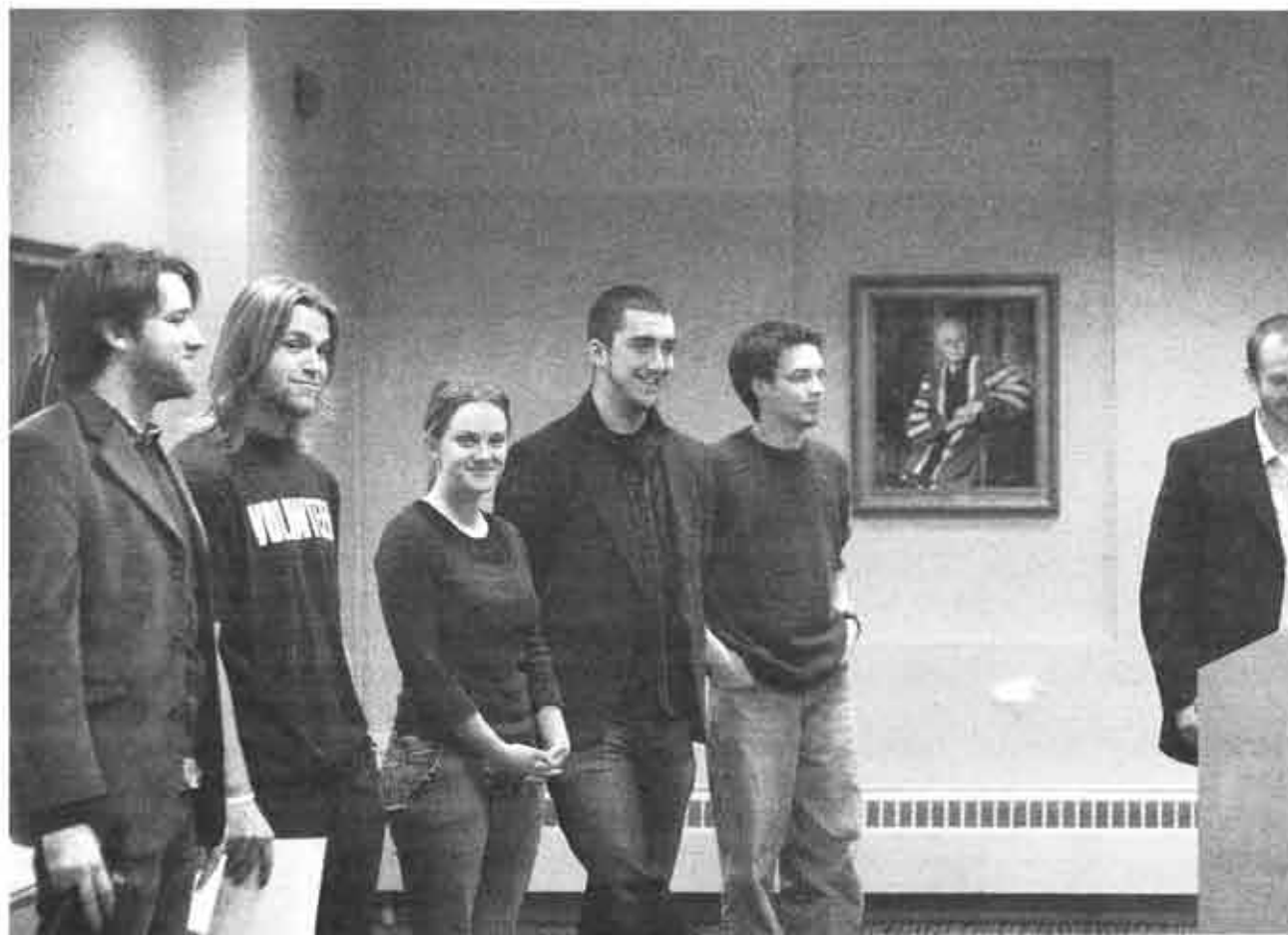
"My goal for next year is to try and recruit more involvement," said Pries, who is hoping for a race for the 2008-2009 board positions.

"I would have liked to see more people, I think that's very important and, democratically, I think it's essential," he said, speaking about this year's turnout. Pries is hopeful that there will be more competition for the board of director positions in next year's election.

"I hope [that there's a race];w I'm going to encourage it," he said.

During last year's WLUSU election, students voted in favour of contributing an optional fee of \$4.75 to support an LSPIRG as an organization autonomous from WLUSU. This is the first year the group opened election of its board of directors to the student body. But only six people ran for six positions.

LSPIRG is a student organization that attempts to create a socially and environmentally just society and to inform individuals to make them more aware of such a society and how they can achieve it.



Sydney Helland

A PIRG-Y GOOD GROUP - The new LSPIRG BOD waits as a motion to elect them is put forward.

New WLUSP leaders

Student Publications elected a new president and board of directors, BOD excited about new year

LAUREN MILLET
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) Monday evening to elect next year's president and board members.

Led by current president Fraser McCracken, the evening commenced with a review of last year's successes across the majority of publications. Acclaimed president Keren Gottfried then presented a short speech. Due to the fact that there was only one presidential candidate, a vote of confidence took place instead of an election.

Following in succession were the speeches from this year's candidates for the board of directors. There were six nominations and four were elected to sit on the board: Ryan Clubb with 47 votes, Rafiq Andani with 42, Rachael Crawford with 41 and Colin LeFevre with 40.

"I'm excited and can't wait for this new adventure to begin," exclaimed BOD winner Ryan Clubb after hearing the results. "My first step will be to get to know the other people on the board and become familiar with the writers. I especially want to look at the Blueprint

and find out why it continues to produce a deficit."

Andani, who was elected to the board for the second year in a row, said it felt "amazing."

"I didn't think I would be re-elected but I'm glad I was," he said. "Working with people who are so involved in the organization felt so cool I wanted to be able to do it again."

"I think I can lend some experience to the new board members," Andani continued.

Gottfried presented her ideas for the future of Student Publications with assurance and self-confidence.

"We provide a product, but we also provide an experience," she explained. Much of her platform is based around developing a better experience for the volunteers through the implementation of an appreciation program and working with career services to provide jobs after graduation.

"I want to work with the editors to develop an incentive program; put more time and effort into volunteer appreciation. [The] organization would be nothing without the volunteers and I think we can do more to show that."

When asked about the reason for the lack of presidential candidates, Gottfried replied, "There is a systematic reason for why we don't have more people running for higher positions. We don't have the positions to give people the experience needed for them."

Gottfried hopes to revise job descriptions for all positions, to work with Brantford to continue their increasing success, to instigate a more efficient design for succession planning to prepare people for the higher jobs and to promote WLUSP's already existing strengths with the Canadian University Press and other organizations.

"I have a love for journalism in general. If I can do the grunt work, serve as a facilitator, and let [volunteers] do their creative thing, we can make a really good pair."

Last year Fraser McCracken defeated Zack Weinberg in the race for WLUSP president in a vote of 156-81. Weinberg was the author of the controversial article "The Gentleman's Guide to Getting Laid at Laurier."

WLUSP publishes the *Cord Weekly*, the *Keystone* yearbook, *Blueprint* magazine, and the *WLU'er* day planner. It also runs the *Sputnik* newspaper and the *Orbiter* day planner at the Brantford campus.



CAST AWAY - Rob Cross casts his vote for the WLUSP BOD Monday evening in N1001 in the science building.

Tony Ferguson



THE CORD WEEKLY

Editor-In-Chief (salaried position)

The Sputnik

Editor-In-Chief (honourarium position)

Blueprint

Editor-In-Chief (honourarium position)

THE KEYSTONE

Editor-In-Chief (salaried position)

Vice President Brantford

IS HIRING FOR MAY 2007

Applications will be available on Friday, February 2, 2007 in the WLUSP office, located on the bottom floor of MacDonald House Residence for students at the Waterloo campus. Brantford students can pick up application forms from the campus manager office.

**Applications will be due on
Friday, February 9, 2007 at
Noon.**

Any questions should be directed to Keren Gottfried at keren.gottfried@wlusp.com

> BAG O' CRIME

Property Damage

Reported: 0438 hrs Jan 22/07
Special Constables received a report of damage done to the sponsorship plaque in room P1013 at the Peters Building. No suspects.

Fail to Remain MVC

Reported: 1745 hrs Jan 24/07
Special Constables investigated a report from a faculty member that his parked unattended vehicle had been struck by an unknown vehicle. Damage consisted of scratches along the left side of his car.

Intoxicated Person

Reported: 0002 hrs Jan 24/07
Special Constables dealt with an intoxicated student on Chancellor Dr. who had created a disturbance at Wilf's a short time earlier by pushing a patron to the floor and throwing a chair. The matter is being sent to the Judicial Affairs Council.

Property Damage

Reported: 0748 hrs Jan 25/07
Special Constables investigated a report from custodial staff that two fire exit signs had been pulled from the ceiling at the rear of the Recital Hall. No suspects. PP&P were notified and requested to make repairs.

Driving Complaint

Reported: 0257 hrs Jan 25/07
While on patrol a Special Constable observed a vehicle being operated in an erratic manner. Road-

ways were wet and there were numerous people in the area. The driver was identified as a delivery driver. He was issued a ticket for careless driving.

Suspicious Person

Reported: 0105 hrs Jan 28/07
Special Constables responded to Waterloo College Hall after receiving a report that 3 males, one of whom had a knife, had slashed a screen window on the 1st floor east lounge and left the scene.

Trespassing


Reported: 0115 hrs Jan 28/07

A non-student male was escorted from the Turret by Special Constables after it was learned that he gained access through the back door. He was previously denied entry at the main entrance due to his intoxicated condition and was banned from campus.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Campus Safety & Security website.

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Wilfrid Laurier University Waterloo, Ontario

CALL FOR COMMENTS Evaluation/Search Committee for the Assistant Vice-President: Student Services/Dean of Students

Mr. David McMurray's current term as Assistant Vice-President: Student Services/Dean of Students ends on June 30, 2007. In accordance with University procedures, an evaluation committee has been established to examine the current mandate of the Dean of Students and to evaluate the work of the incumbent and consider a recommendation regarding renewal.

Submissions are invited from the University community on issues that should be considered during the evaluation process as well as commenting on the work of the incumbent. A copy of the organizational chart responsible to the Dean of Students can be viewed in the office of the University Secretariat during normal business hours. Submissions (in writing or by e-mail) should be sent to the Committee secretary, Maebelle Koebel, at 519-884-0710, ext. 2981 or at mkoebel@wlu.ca, by 4:30 p.m., February 7, 2007. All submissions considered by the Committee will be regarded as confidential. You may request to remain anonymous to the members of the Committee. The Committee secretary should receive comments that indicate who the commentator is. The chair will delete names of those who wish to be anonymous before the comments reach the Committee.

Robert Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor, and chair of the Committee

CALL FOR COMMENTS Search/Evaluation Committee for the Principal/Vice-President, Brantford Campus

The University has established a search/evaluation committee for a Principal/Vice-President of the Brantford Campus. In accordance with University procedures, the process is underway to recommend an appointment of a Principal/Vice-President, Brantford Campus to serve a five-year term to start for July 1, 2007.

Submissions are invited from the University community on the challenges and opportunities facing the Brantford Campus going forward, as well as desirable attributes and characteristics for this position. A copy of the position description and organizational chart responsible to the Principal/Vice-President, Brantford Campus can be viewed in the office of the University Secretariat, Waterloo campus or the office of the Dean of Brantford, Brantford campus during normal business hours. Submissions (in writing or by e-mail) should be sent to the Committee secretary, Jennifer Casey, at 519-884-0710, ext. 2037 or at jcasey@wlu.ca, by 4:30 p.m., February 7, 2007. All submissions considered by the Committee will be regarded as confidential. You may request to remain anonymous to the members of the Committee. The Committee secretary should receive comments that indicate who the commentator is. The chair will delete names of those who wish to be anonymous before the comments reach the Committee.

Robert Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor, and chair of the Committee

CALL FOR COMMENTS Evaluation/Search Committee for the Vice-President: Finance & Administration

Mr. Jim Butler's first term as Vice-President: Finance & Administration ends on August 31, 2007. In accordance with University procedures, an evaluation committee has been established to evaluate the work of the incumbent, review the position description, and make a recommendation regarding renewal.

Submissions are invited from the University community on issues that should be considered during the evaluation process. A copy of the organization chart responsible to the Vice-President: Finance & Administration as well as a current position description can be viewed in the office of the University Secretariat during normal business hours. Submissions (in writing or by e-mail) should be sent to the Committee secretary, Jennifer Casey, at 519-884-0710, ext. 2037 or at jcasey@wlu.ca, by 4:30 p.m., February 7, 2007. All submissions considered by the Committee will be regarded as confidential. You may request to remain anonymous to the members of the Committee. The Committee secretary should receive comments that indicate who the commentator is. The chair will delete names of those who wish to be anonymous before the comments reach the Committee.

Robert Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor, and chair of the Committee

CALL FOR COMMENTS Search Committee for the Vice-President: University Advancement

Mr. Arthur Stephen's term as Vice-President: University Advancement ends on June 30, 2007. In accordance with University procedures, a search is underway for a Vice-President: University Advancement to serve a five year term to start July 1, 2007.

Submissions are invited from the University community on the state of University Advancement as well as issues which should be considered during the search process. A copy of the organizational chart responsible to the Vice-President: University Advancement can be viewed in the office of the University Secretariat during normal business hours. Submissions (in writing or by e-mail) should be sent to the Committee secretary, Maebelle Koebel at mkoebel@wlu.ca by 4:30 p.m., February 7, 2007. All submissions considered by the Committee will be regarded as confidential. You may request to remain anonymous to the members of the Committee. The Committee secretary should receive comments that indicate who the commentator is. The chair will delete names of those who wish to be anonymous before the comments reach the Committee.

Robert Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor, and chair of the Committee



Contributed Photo

ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW - Clinton and Obama are expected to go head-to-head for the 2008 presidential seat after raising funds.

US Democrats to be led by minority

ASHELY DOODNAUTH
CORD INTERNATIONAL

The 2008 US presidential bid made headlines when two candidates announced their formation of a presidential exploratory committee. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are currently raising funds to run in the 2008 election. Clinton is confirmed in the presidential race, while Obama will announce his final decision on February 10, depending on the success of his committee generating funds.

Dick Cheney, current vice president, and John Kerry, a previous

presidential candidate, have both made clear they will not be running in 2008. BBC News reports that Al Gore, former vice president under the Bill Clinton administration, has declared his intentions to run.

"Knowledge of your voting body, what they want and how you deliver that" is key to any campaign, according to WLUSU President Allan Cayenne.

Highly publicized Obama and Clinton are both from different backgrounds; they are both criticized and loved, yet they both show enormous potential for 2008.

Clinton attended Yale Law School

and made history by becoming the first First Lady to run for public office, as well as by being New York's first female senator, a position she has held for six years. *Time* magazine maintains that name recognition and the ability to raise funds give her a fighting chance at becoming the first female president.

Obama, who is the son of a Kenyan man and a Caucasian mother from Kansas, attended Harvard Law School and was the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review. He spent his early childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia, finally ending up in mainland

US. He was elected to the US Senate in 2004 and gained unprecedented popularity after his appearance at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Despite his lack of experience in federal politics, he has had over 10 years of practice as a liberal campaigner. Obama has shown himself to be an eloquent public speaker and claims he believes in a united America.

"It will be interesting to see both candidates overcome perceptions and pre-conceived notions," says Cayenne.

A laundry list of obstacles stands between these candidates and the Oval Office. First, Clinton voted in favour of the Iraq War Resolution in October 2002. According to BBC News, Clinton lacks the charisma that her husband exuded during his presidency and having a female president in a time of war would be detrimental to the country.

On the other hand, Obama is said to be too "green" to become presi-

dent and needs more experience. Another obstacle facing Obama is his name, Barack Hussein Obama; although not Muslim, the issue of winning the vote of "white America" remains questionable.

"People still put value and stock in that [ethnicity]."

Obama's middle name is already being thrown around the media as a way to discredit his good intentions for America.

A recent opinion poll from ABC News for preferred Democratic candidate shows Clinton at 39 percent and Obama trailing with 17 percent.

"It comes down to whether America is smart enough to put aside any sort of 'isms' for the greater good of the nation," says Cayenne, whose campaign experience reflects this sort of voting at Laurier.

"Here I was, just another candidate going for the election. If only America would have the WLU mentality."



NONE FOR ME, THANKS - Some food is GMO-contaminated, and has to be sent back, wasting food aid funds on expensive shipping.

Stop sending food aid overseas: CIGI Chair

ARLA LATTO-HALL
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Countries should stop sending food to those in need, researcher Jennifer Clapp told an attentive audience of nearly 100 last Wednesday at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), a Waterloo-based think tank that draws a world of high-profile academic and diplomatic talent.

As chair in international governance at CIGI, Clapp said that the world's 850 million undernourished should instead be helped with cold, hard cash.

With a history of inefficiency, in-kind food aid - that is, sending surplus agricultural production to countries in need - needs to be replaced with a low-cost alternative, she argued. For example, the United States contributed 45 percent of the world's food aid in 2004, making it the largest contributor by far. Sixty percent of the cost of its food aid is spent within the US on salaries, processing and shipping, says Clapp. By insisting that this form

of aid contributes to its national economy, it is turning away from less expensive opportunities in the recipient countries. Up to 600 million per year is lost because of what Clapp calls "tied food aid."

Since its invention in 1954, food aid has decreased from 20 percent of total development aid to just 5 percent. Portions designated as emergency food aid by donor countries has increased its total proportion of food aid from 20 percent to nearly 60 percent. And with the increasing cost of distributing food aid, especially in conflict-ridden regions, NGOs have increasingly monetized it - meaning that what would have been free food to recipients now comes at a cost.

"If we want to feed more of those 850,000 people who are hungry, reforming food aid might be a step in the right direction," Clapp said.

Some countries have begun to reverse the trends: in 2005, Canada allowed up to 50 percent of all food aid to be purchased from the developing countries, getting rid of expensive shipping and processing

costs, while contributing to a developing economy. The issue will be raised at the upcoming Doha round trade talks, which aim to reduce trade barriers - including the farming subsidies associated with the current food aid market. Many international players are on board with the new food aid proposal, including Oxfam, World Vision, and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The FAO released a major report on January 24, denouncing the current food aid market, and calling for "a series of major changes in the way international food aid is managed and delivered."

Yet monetary aid has its own set of problems. Although aid in cash frees up nearly 60 percent of its value in saved shipping costs and can get more food to more people, corruption is a major vulnerability of the system. Clapp says that management is key. "Delivering food in commodity form is very challenging ...there would be ways to achieve [secure monetary aid] if it's managed well."

Violence during Ashura

Continued unrest hits annual festival marking Islam's Shia-Sunni divide

HEATHER MACDONALD
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday marked the day of Ashura for Muslims all over the world, a celebration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein in 680 AD which sealed the schism between Shia and Sunni Islam – a religious division that has seen clashes through to the present day.

Several hundred thousand Shia Muslims converged in Lebanon yesterday, most of them dressed in black, to commemorate the celebration. This follows Sunni-Shia violence in Beirut on Thursday in which four were left dead and 150 wounded, according to BBC News. The possibility of civil war between the two groups has caused concern in the region with Hezbollah and its

Shia ally mounting an opposition campaign against Beirut's government, which is generally supported by Sunnis.

Continuous violence in Iraq resulted in 40 deaths during the festival in three attacks. More than 100 were wounded. Since the US invasion of the country, the festival has seen serious sectarian violence. It is unclear whether the second or third attacks were in retaliation for the initial suicide bombing, which killed 19 people at a mosque in a peaceful town.

It is on this day every year that Shia Muslims devote themselves to retelling and reliving the story of a historic battle at Karbala. Stories are often told throughout the day through poetry, plays and other dramatic forms. As the day

progresses many Shia Muslims become so passionate that they often weep with intensity.

After the story is retold in various ways, groups of men will often stand in circles, pound on their chests, and then continue into more aggressive acts of whipping themselves with bunches of small blades known as "zanjirs."

Those who participate in self-flagellation say that it is done in an act to oppose violence. Hussein Khimjee, a religious studies professor at Laurier, doesn't agree with their actions and says that "it is important to remind Muslims that Imam Hussein stood for non-violence, non-extremism and peace."

Shia Muslims who participate in the public display of scourging frequently defend themselves by say-



Contributed Photo

VIOLENCE AND MOCK VIOLENCE - Reenactments bring it to life.

ing that it is a means to relate to and recognize the struggle and sacrifice of Hussein on that day.

One way Muslims in Toronto commemorate Imam Hussein is by having the Red Cross set up clinics in mosques for Ashura which allow Muslims to donate blood.

Hussein is revered for having re-

jected any deviation from the empire's strong faith-based dynasty after Muhammad's death in 632CE. He and his followers quickly became enemies to the new dynasty.

An assassination attempt on their lives nearly 50 years later resulted in a ten-day massacre.

Support needed for state-building



ALEXANDRA HOWARD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Since boots first imprinted Afghanistan's soil, Canadians have maintained a critical eye overseas, speculating whether our objectives of state-building and democracy remain alive within military operations. Increasingly unpopular with many North Americans, the war in Afghanistan highlights a crucial campaign against the anti-Western world as well as an effort to establish a civil society in a milieu of violence and unrest.

This past Friday, Laurier hosted a speaker panel to address issues pertaining to Canadian foreign policy with emphasis on the dynamics of rebuilding Afghanistan into a democratic state – an endeavor central to and impeded by the campaign against terrorism.

The longstanding issue of wom-

en's rights is continually propelled to the forefront of discussions on the Middle East; Chesmak Farhoumand-Sims from St. Paul's University estimates that "equality between men and women is necessary for peace" in Afghanistan.

In claiming minimal gains for women, Farhoumand-Sims paints a rather dismal portrait of the social situation, of education and health care and an increase in abuse. She equates the rise in domestic violence to the "deepened military incursions by the war on terror." In reality, Afghanistan's long history

of negative practices against women has bred a culture of violence.

With pride, Canadian soldiers stationed near Kandahar City tell of a recently established soccer stadium formerly used primarily for the beating of local women. On a grand scale, these "small" gains are both substantial and reasonable given the atmosphere of resistance.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Mackay reports a doubling of the GDP, the disarmament of 63,000 former combatants, the removal of 11,000 heavy weapons, the start of businesses by women, the return of millions of refugees and about five million children (one third female) enrolled in primary school.

As Stephen Harper once said, "once we get rid of the bad people, we can carry on with full force in terms of the reconstruction and

development," a fundamental notion expanded on by Jean Daudelin from Carleton University. He reasoned that the concept of a centralized functional state is nonsensical in a society of warlords and corruption. Ultimately, dubious advancements such as road building is due to Afghanistan's resource deficiency; thus, the only option is to build on what already exists in the midst of terror. In truth, "states are not built by nice people but by those who are willing to use violence." The 10.6 billion dollars in aid the

United States pledged to Canada's Afghanistan mission will surely predicate rectification.

As Geoffrey Hayes from the University of Waterloo explains, the "whole of government" policy implemented by our PM is one that holds great potential but the means to achieve 'victory' may not be consistent with Canadian values. However, the binary role of security and reconstruction is a double-edged sword; it is our duty to let the sword and the troops who wield it determine the outcome.

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Four out of five

Solid weekend sees Hawks' stock rise

PARRY SOHI
STAFF WRITER

Having won three of their last four, Laurier's men's basketball team was looking to continue their winning ways against the Waterloo Warriors this past Saturday.

The contest opened up with sloppy play from both sides. Poor transition and offensive execution in the opening ten minutes contributed to the twenty-seven total turnovers in the game.

Despite mediocre play, the Hawks found themselves up 15-7 at the ten minute mark in the first. Laurier led by as much as ten early on, but an insurgence by the Warriors led to a 13-2 run to go up 30-28 going into the half.

In typical fashion, however, the Golden Hawks came out firing on all cylinders to open up the second half. Strong rebounding by Trevor Csimas and Evan Eliason allowed point guard Omar Miles, who finished the game with seven assists, to extend the court and put pressure on a shaky Waterloo defence.

Matthew Walker led the offensive charge for WLU, hitting two quick three-balls, and finishing the contest with a game-high 25 points.

Likewise, Waterloo came to play in the second half. Despite great offensive play by Walker, Laurier found themselves up by only two points with ten to play. Strong inside play by Matthew Hayes and shooting from guard David Burnett kept Waterloo in the game, as they found themselves down 60-55 with five minutes to play.

The difference turned out to be the shooting of Laurier rookie Justin Golob. Scoring a total of 16 points, shooting 4 for 7 from behind the arc, Golob's three-point shooting single-handedly put the game out of reach for the Warriors. Although Walker fouled out with only four minutes left in the half, Jesse McDonald, Miles and Golob were able to keep the young Laurier squad focused, winning the game 75-66.

Down the stretch, Coach Peter Campbell felt the difference was staying focused and not playing into the hands of Waterloo.

"The big difference was the fact that we got back to playing how we needed to play in the second. And also, great play from some of the rookies."

Post-game, Walker acknowledged the fact that the team relies heavily on the jump shot.

"We definitely live or die by the shot, it's our game. Fortunately, we were able to hit a lot today and come out on top."

Hawks peeling off flight path

Ladies hold on to fourth and final playoff spot in the OUA West division ... just barely

DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

It seems as though Laurier's women's volleyball squad is having a bit of an identity crisis when it comes to deciding whether they are or are not a playoff contender.

And if this past weekend is any indication, it seems as though fans will be left guessing for, at most, another three games as the Hawks close out the regular season.

Most frustrating, aside from the

team only standing at 8-8, is the fact that any winning performance hasn't occurred on a consistent enough basis.

Take the recent two-game home stand against Guelph and McMaster.

Facing the Gryphons on Friday night, the Hawks played with desperation winning 3 sets to 1. With the victory being their second straight, it looked as though the Hawks had finally figured things out for the part of the year.

And it certainly seemed that way after the first set Saturday evening against the 13-3 Marauders.

The Hawks, led by consistently strong hitting on the left side by Danielle Walker, surprised the visitors by winning the set 25-23 in a see-saw clash.

Things came crashing down to earth hard for WLU, though, as Mac would go on to win three of the last four sets for the victory.

Having started with a lot of zest in their play, the Hawks too often

succumbed to scrambling play and not enough of the disciplined attack that enabled them to make the match very close at times.

And that is exactly what seemed to frustrate Head Coach Dave McIntyre with the end result as his team walked off the floor, stating simply that he wanted to see more of his players play more "consistently" and "aggressively."

Asked if she shared her coach's thoughts, Walker agreed whole-heartedly.

"It's all of us [that have to make the effort]. We have four fourth-year players doing everything we can too," she said.

"We need to beat Windsor and Waterloo and take fourth place there," she added.



Laura Tomkins

LAYING THE SMACK DOWN - Laurier's Michelle Cook leaps to block a spike attempt by McMaster's Sarah Kierman.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Jan 31 - Feb 6, 2007

RECENT SCORES

01.23.07
W Basketball 51 - McMaster 79
M Basketball 83 - McMaster 90

01.26.07
W Volleyball 3 - Guelph 1
W Hockey 2 - Queen's 2
M Hockey 9 - Lakehead 3
M Volleyball 3 - Guelph 1

01.27.07
W Basketball 63 - Waterloo 62
M Basketball 75 - Waterloo 66
W Hockey 5 - Waterloo 1
W Volleyball 2 - McMaster 3
M Hockey 6 - Lakehead 5
M Volleyball 1 - McMaster 3

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.31.07
W Basketball vs Western
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
M Basketball vs Western
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

02.01.07
M Hockey vs Western
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

02.02.07
W Volleyball vs Windsor
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
M Volleyball vs Windsor
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

02.03.07
W Volleyball vs Western
WLU Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
M Hockey vs Waterloo
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm
M Volleyball vs Western
WLU Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Mark Voakes
Men's Hockey
Whitney Rich
Swimming

www.laurierathletics.com

>SPORTS BRIEFS

All-Canadian match up

This Saturday evening will see two of Canada's best men's hockey teams face-off against each other - and both are from Waterloo.

Coming off a very successful road trip in Thunder Bay, in which they beat Lakehead 9-3 and 6-5, the seventh-ranked Hawks will meet long-time rivals, fifth-ranked Waterloo, at the Rec Complex this Saturday night.

Before looking too far ahead though, the Hawks, now 18-5-1, must face the visiting Western Mustangs tomorrow night.

Both game times are set for 7:30pm.

Ho-hum for the Hawks

The women's hockey team added another three points to their season tally this past weekend with a scrappy 2-2 draw against the second-place Golden Gaels from

Queen's, which was then followed by a more comfortable 5-1 win on the "road" against the Waterloo Warriors.

Now sitting at 15-2-2 and enjoying a seven-point cushion atop the OUA standings, the Hawks travel to York for a Saturday matinee before returning for a home game against Brock on Super Bowl Sunday.

- Compiled by Dan Polischuk

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Super Bowl XLI a writer's dream



DAN POLISCHUK
SPORTS EDITOR

As much as it will be discussed that the Super Bowl will produce some great commercials, besides the actual game itself, it is the storylines surrounding the match that get the real fans - the ones that watched all 16 regular season games plus the playoffs, start to end - glued to their screens.

And if this year's match-up be-

tween the Chicago Bears and Indianapolis Colts is any indication, sports writers will have a great time getting football enthusiasts, the world over, any tidbit they can that'll make the match that much more significant.

Let's begin with the obvious.

This year's game in Miami will be the first championship game in which two African-American head coaches will try to lead their team to capture the Lombardi Trophy. Lovie Smith of the Bears and Tony Dungy of the Colts did not even try to shy away from the fact that both were rooting for each other to make

it to the big game.

As long as it took to get this kind of match up, the wait was nowhere near as gruelling as the one Colts quarterback Peyton Manning had to endure to make it to his first Super Bowl.

Possibly the best ball-tosser in every way possible, Manning was gaining the reputation of being the ultimate choke artist. Now that the weight has lifted, will it be his time to go all the way?

And speaking of going all the way, the Bears have two players in their starting lineup that almost went all "all the way" to jail to do some time.

Lucky for Chicago, though, they'll have both Tank Johnson and Ricky Manning Jr. ready to go. While Manning's issues are over, Johnson faces 10 counts of firearms possession ... something that both Tank and his teammates hope won't create further distractions.

To further jump on the Bear-bashing train (like so many shockingly do) one must only start the debate whether they have, on their roster, the worst Super Bowl starting quarterback since flame - excuse me - lame thrower, Trent Dilfer, of Super Bowl XXXV fame.

But while all this may play on

the minds of everyone involved or watching from afar, the one story that hasn't even been brought up is the fact that Dungy is coaching in the biggest game of his life barely a year since his 18-year-old son committed suicide.

The spirit of James Dungy, often by his dad's side on the field, could, in the end, make the game more special than it ever has been before.

Cord Sports Prediction: Colts 24-17

GOLDEN HAWK MEN'S HOCKEY BATTLE OF WATERLOO

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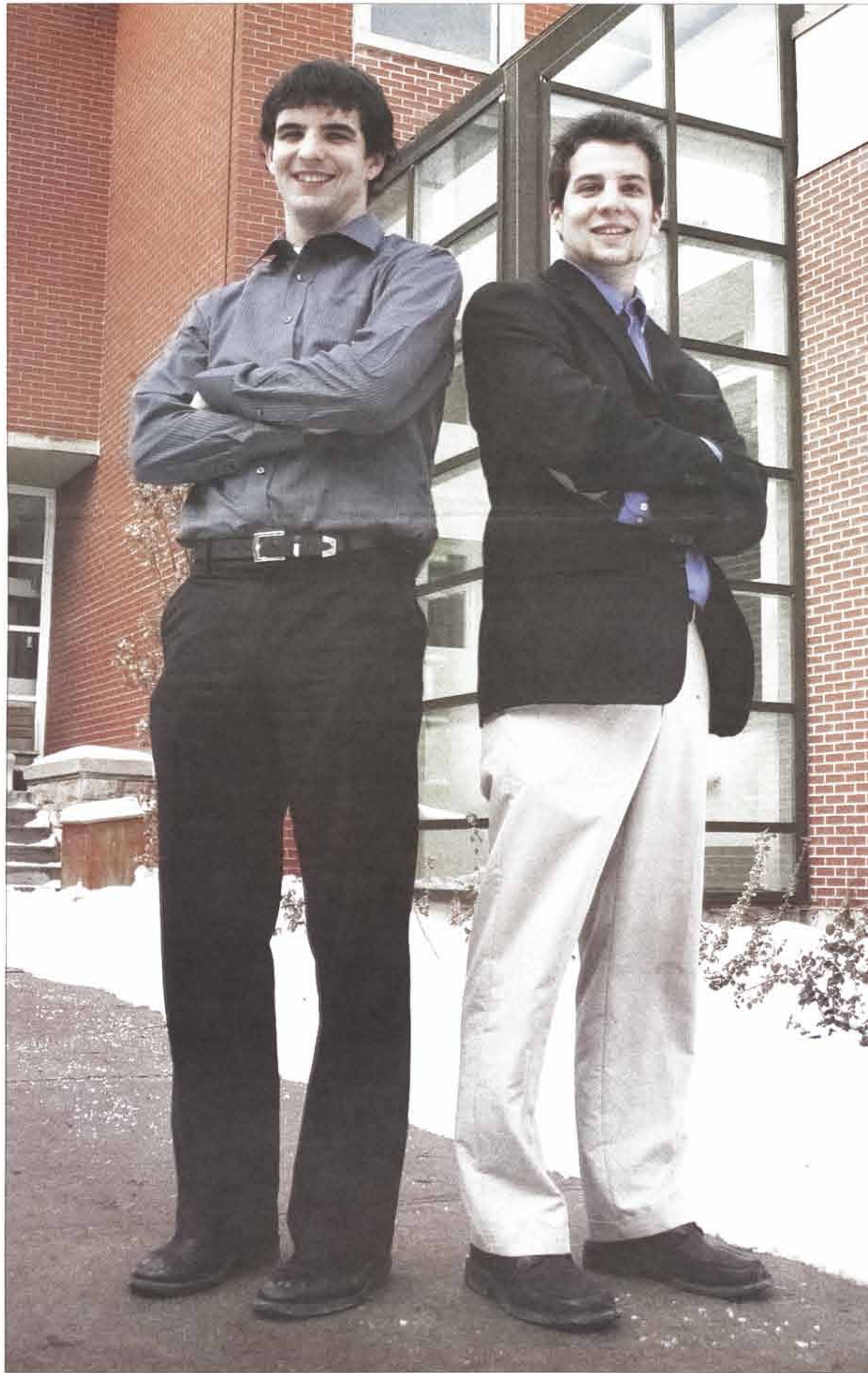
Thursday, February 1



Vote responsibly.

Danny boys

Two candidates, two platforms, two Dans. But who will win your vote? Editor-in-Chief April Robinson sits down with presidential candidates Hocking and Allison to see what they'll do for you



WLUSU's slogan is to provide for the needs of students. What do you identify as the biggest student need in this election and how do you intend to provide for it?

Dan Hocking: I think one area that we've identified that we've been lacking in a little is advocacy. We saw it with the WLUSA issue, and we've seen it with things like WLUSU staff coming to board meetings to express their concerns and I think there are lots of students who feel they're a little under-represented at the university, so one of my things is to be that force, to be that uniter.... I think the biggest mistake with the WLUSA issue was that Allan – and I do peg it on Allan – tried to consult too much and take too much time on it.

Dan Allison: Reaching out to students – that's what I got from student feedback. It's the feeling that a lot of students feel disenfranchised from the Union. They'd like to be involved more but don't know how and are may be uncomfortable doing the traditional volunteer opportunities. So providing for the needs of campus clubs and reaching students that way. Just reaching students who haven't been reached yet.

What was the best and the worst decision made by the Board of Directors so far this year?

Hocking: I truly believe that the decision that lacked any kind of direction of vision was the Darfur motion that they ended up passing.... While it may reflect some of the representatives of the board and their political views, I don't think it reflects the whole student body. I think the best decision the board has made has been a step to start examining their role and what role they play in the organization.... So it's working with things like policy governance which does give the board a very clear and defined role. And this is a project that's kind of my baby. It's something I pushed for last year when I was a director.

Allison: The worst decision by the board was to not have VPs at the meetings. The job of the president is to make sure that the MC [management committee] is accountable to students. And it's important to have them there to answer questions.

As far as the best decision, I think the policy governance model that's coming up will be the best decision by the board. It will help next year's board to understand their position in WLUSU a lot better.

How has Allan Cayenne performed as president so far this year? What have you learned from his successes and failures?

Hocking: I think Allan overall has been a very good president this year. He's very good at student engagement, which is one of the things he did to focus on. Probably the review the Cord did of Allan summed it up very nicely: the fact that he's a nice guy, he genuinely cares about students and he's able to work with anyone on any issue.... Sometimes he consults too much – he takes much time to make a decision. I think sometimes that impacts organization in terms of... by the time we're able to make a decision, it's too late to affect any change. He has taught me quite a bit this year. And the biggest thing for me was seeing the volunteer side of things managing volunteers.

Allison: Allan's done a great job. He has his pulse on the students, which is very important. One thing I'm impressed with is he kept his promises. That's really important.... He has a very specific platform promise that I know I can achieve. Also, he does a very good job of remaining professional. He doesn't bring his personal feelings in the board room. It's enough this year with marketing. I did make sure I work with the vice-president: marketing and the chair of the board to really make that a priority. I'll those [board] spots and represent students a little bit better.

Do you think there was so little interest in students running in this election?

Hocking: I think Allan [Cayenne] passed the ball a little bit in terms of hiring. Part of it was the timing with the Cord of the director review. I think if that was out the week before... it would have drawn more people to it. Ultimately, you have to be at the other student organization around this campus. LSPRG: board was acclaimed. Student Publications: your board only had one member apply and you had to reopen nominations. Student Publications was acclaimed. But I think ultimately points to a bigger trend. In doing my research, I've found that in the mid '90s it was kind of the same way.

Allison: Unfortunately, I don't think marketing was done as well as it could [have been] this year. Students weren't able to find out about the election until last year during the

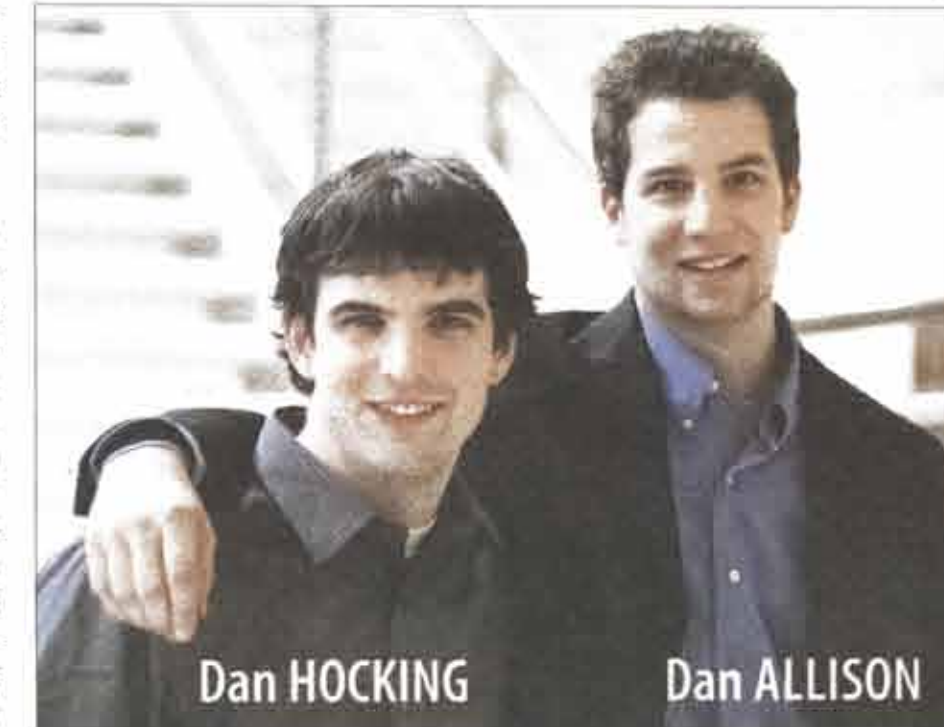
exam time when they weren't exactly focused on union events as much as their own studies. There weren't a lot of hot button issues and interest sort of follows those things – it's just one of the ebbs and flows of the Union.

How will the situation with 10 acclaimed directors affect the governance of WLUSU next year?

Hocking: There's been all this talk about the democratic process and how it's not being served and I definitely see some of the points in that. But the bottom line is these students are still representatives.... With the 10 currently, plus the Special General Meeting that is almost certain to happen due to our bylaws, I think that the

is governance" and "what is management." When you set those high-end end policies, you really get some solid direction.... I really like policy governance because it encourages discussion – a lot more discussion than what we have now and actually constructive discussion.

Allison: The policy governance model is, from my understanding, a smaller document that is easier for board members to understand. And it would be a document explaining what they can't do as opposed to what they can do so directors can have a better understanding of their role. As it stands now, the governance manual is a very large document that many board members don't take the opportunity to read. [Policy governance] would make their role more effective. And from my understanding, it would make transitions that much easier.



governance of the corporation will be just fine.... I'm not worried at all with the situation of 10 acclaimed directors. And I think that anyone who worries about it may be a little short-sighted.

Allison: I think it's a tough situation since the students weren't able to choose their elected members. One thing that you can spin a positive out of it is maybe there are some directors who have been acclaimed who will do a great job but who maybe wouldn't have gotten the popular vote. So they'll bring in a dynamic and I don't have any lack of confidence in this board to do a good job.

What is Policy Governance? What is your opinion on WLUSU changing to this governance model?

Hocking: Policy Governance is a system that's designed to alleviate a few problems.... It's designed to allow the board to designate specific goals as well as limitations on the management and then have the management carry on the day-to-day operations. So it alleviates the problem of "what

opportunity to read. [Policy governance] would make their role more effective. And from my understanding, it would make transitions that much easier.

Dan Hocking:

Does it worry you that Dan Allison's Facebook group has almost twice the members as yours?

No, it doesn't. If we thought Facebook was a viable polling method, maybe it would. Look at it this way: if you can't rely on polling methods run by polling companies on major elections when there's so much margin of error, I think that looking at a Facebook group is an absolutely silly way to look at the election. It doesn't worry me one bit. I know that I have all kinds of support from people who may not be on Facebook, or who may not necessarily want to declare their public support in that way.

As VP: Marketing, do you feel responsible for the lack of attendance at the BOD open forum as well as what seems to be a lack of interest in director positions?

No, and I don't think it's the job of VP: Marketing to do that. We're very much a customer service department. I advised Matt [Park] more than a month in advance of the open forum of a strategy to take.... In terms of the lack of candidates, I got the information out there as fast as I could given the timelines that we had. And I think Allan's hesitation with hiring for the CRO position put a big strain on that. Could I have done more? You know, I probably could have worked over the Christmas break and done a little bit more. But do I deserve a piece of the blame? Sure I'll take a piece of the blame. I think it wouldn't serve the students if I didn't. But is it my fault? Absolutely not.

The Campus Clubs department has been in turmoil for quite some time. How will your structural review repair the disorganization and frustration that has occurred in the past?

One of the problems with campus clubs is there are so many clubs looking for so many things and they're asking for so much service for a group of people that are volunteers. And so one of the ideas that Mossab [Basir – VP: Finance] has been discussing is turning that Campus Clubs Coordinator position into a paid position to provide definitive staff support.... And the other thing they could benefit from is a move out of the finance department because I don't think they necessarily get the support they could get there.... The problem is, there's so much other work that the finance person should be doing.

How will you increase space for student organizations when it is so hard to find on this small campus?

I'm not sure it's so hard to find space – I think there's a lot of space that's underutilized. One of the areas proposed is actually part of an existing residence, where some of the floor space is used by different groups and it's just a matter of a proper expansion and setting up that space so it fits with those groups.

Dan Allison:

What role is Facebook playing in your campaign?

I don't think it's a major forum for hot issues. I try to use it to encourage students to ask me questions. I haven't had any in that forum. Facebook hasn't been the forum that I expected it to be. It's not very accurate, necessarily, but it gives a general idea of how I'm doing.

You do not have any experience on the Management Committee com-

pared to Hocking's two years' experience. Do you think this would mean you would have a steep learning curve if elected?

I've worked directly with Allan [Cayenne] as First Year Council coordinator this year. But as far as the role of president as a representational person, as more of a liaison between groups, I bring a lot to the position. I've seen the position from the outside looking in, as an employee of the school, from the inside out as the coordinator of First Year Council, from the top-down as a board of directors member and I've seen it from the bottom-up as a general volunteer.

How would your proposed Campus Clubs funding structure be different from the one that is already in place?

As it stands, the campus clubs funding structure doesn't have any set guidelines for event funding and budget grants. So [we need] a funding structure that accommodates those – particularly clubs that would like to go to a conference that wasn't budgeted for. There's no process for allocating how much money is approved for a specific club – it's fairly arbitrary.... [The new structure] would ultimately give them more money.

How will you make diversity a focus next year?

Diversity is a big focus next year to make sure that I support properly the Student Union's association with the new diversity coordinator there. The Diversity Centre, if supported properly, could be a major lobbying group for the "isms" on campus.... [We should also] develop a policy statement on diversity – it's a major thing that WLUSU needs to do. So all employees – full-time and part-time, as well as volunteers – go through diversity training to create a more comfortable and accepting environment in the corporation.

What's the biggest difference between your platform and Dan Hocking's?

The difference is I'm really trying to reach out to students in a different light. With the library hours, I've talked about specifically extending them for the exam period, because it can be expensive to [extend them] for the whole year. As well, extending the Dining Hall hours to better meet first-year needs. I haven't made as many promises. I feel like being flexible for things that may come up in the year... is something I really looked into.



Photos by Sydney Helland



Jon Kit

Canvassing for breasts

WLU arts student takes class project to the next level, raising funds for breast cancer

- FROM **BREASTS**, COVER

woman's uniqueness.

Dubbed Breastfest, these canvases will be on display during International Women's Week on March 8 in the Concourse at an art show put on by the Laurier Women's Centre.

Fraser's striking visual statement will not only be a work of art, it will also raise funds for breast cancer through an organization called Rethink Breast Cancer.

This organization is "a bold charity helping young people who are concerned about or affected by breast cancer through innovative research, education and support programs," says Fraser. "My hope is to raise funds for breast cancer but also to raise awareness in the student population at Laurier."

In true Laurier fashion, Fraser has set a high target amount and hopes to raise over \$1,000 through pledge forms and donations.

Funding for her project has come from various sources including support from the Laurier Women's Centre, Rethink Breast Cancer, the dean of students and various faculty members.

"They've all been very supportive and encouraging in helping me run this event," says Fraser. "I've been getting a very positive response and I want this to be a fun and exciting event but with a serious tone."

Through personal experiences, Fraser understands how a fam-

ily can be so seriously affected by breast cancer.

She says, "I feel good about contributing to family and community support systems. This is something that people are very affected by in the real world, and it's something that matters so much to me and to so many others."

The whole process began last September in Fraser's progressive studio course with Professor Marshall Ward. "My original idea was just to find a way to represent women visually," she says.

But after proposing the idea to family and friends Fraser received a lot of positive response and decided to take it to the next level.

"After the response I thought 'maybe this could be bigger,'" she says. "At this point it's not even a matter of me striving for a good mark in the class. It's gone beyond that now."

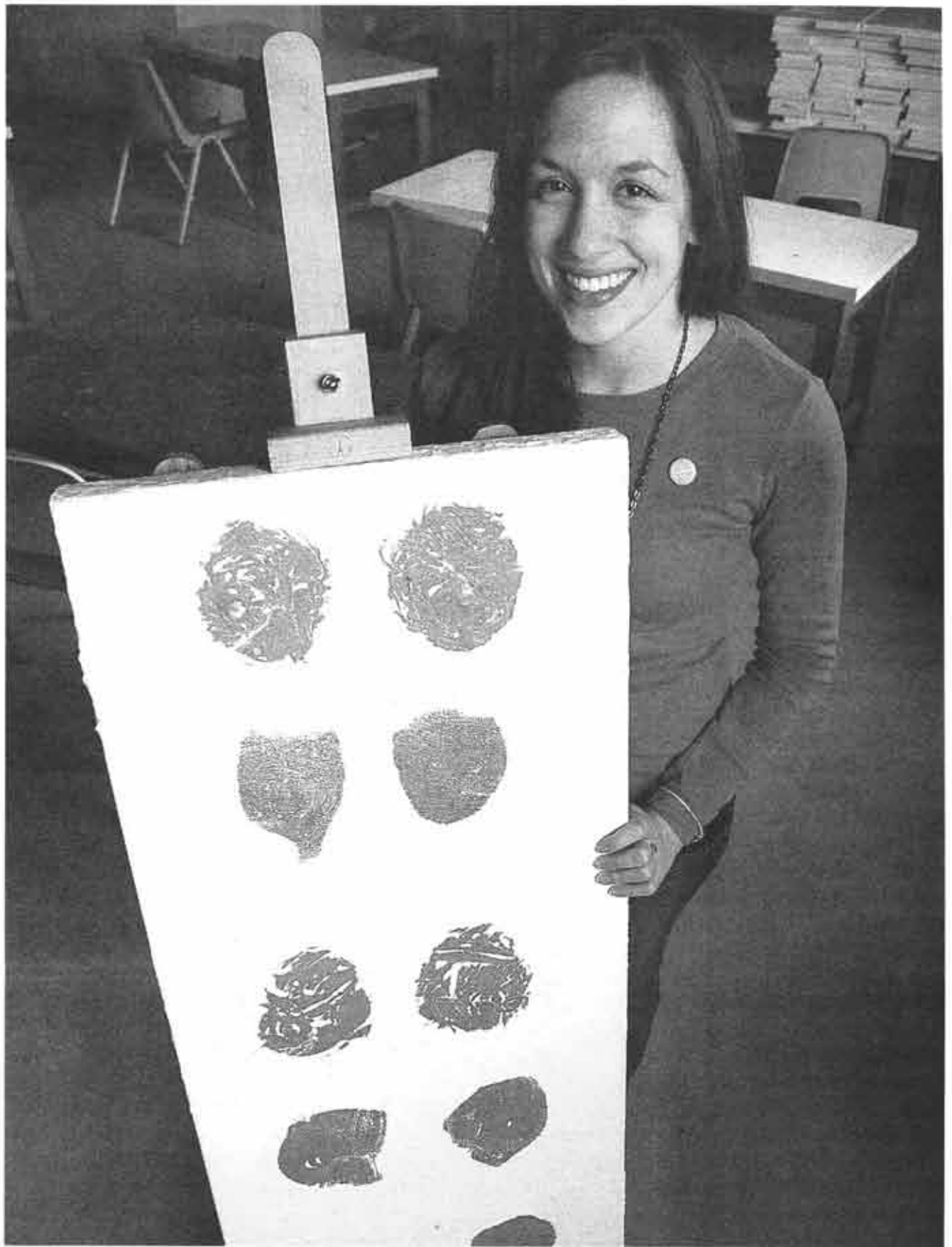
Women are encouraged to take part in the campaign and to literally make their mark against breast cancer.

Canvases will be set up at the Grad Pub March 6 and 7 and women will have the chance to enter a private area, cover their breasts in pink paint, and make an imprint on one of the three canvases.

The body paint is completely non-toxic, water-based, and FDA approved. Fraser reassures that the environment will remain completely private and non-threatening and that all imprints will be anonymous.

If you would like to participate in Breastfest or for more information email Nikole Fraser at breastfest2007@hotmail.com.

More information regarding breast cancer research and awareness can be found at www.rethink-breastcancer.com.



Shane Porter

TOPS OFF FOR A CAUSE - Nikole Fraser displays her canvases in the Fine Arts Studio.

WLUSU executive breakdown

In an effort to dispell the annual student union election confusion, Wray outlines the duties of each elected position

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

The power to choose is something we often take for granted. Tomorrow is voting day for WLUSU elections, and while not knowing enough is often an excuse for not voting, it's not a good excuse.

Why it's important for you to vote for...

The President

The president of WLUSU represents your needs at the highest level. Their role is "to represent the stu-

dents' union to the university administration and to the university as a whole," explained the current president, Allan Cayenne.

"Student services of the university [are] governed by a community called SSAC (Student Services Advisory Committee), comprised of 50 percent students and 50 percent university voting membership," said Cayenne.

This committee makes decisions regarding where SSAC fee money is allocated and "the president is responsible for assigning a student to sit on that committee, so it's a pretty big responsibility."

Along with deciding how to choose the students who will be on SSAC, the president "selects a lot of students to sit on various university committees whether they be for student services or for search committees like for a new president, new dean, or new vice president," said Cayenne.

Overall, the president of WLUSU is the main representative of students' wants and needs.

Their influence is instrumental for getting initiatives completed.

The Vice President: University Affairs

The vice-president of university affairs is important to students because they are "an advocate for students in areas of diversity, education and environmentalism," explained the current VP, J.D. Muir.

Muir explained that the position requires a diverse focus.

Currently, Muir is involved in the Ecohawks, the Equality Awareness Committee, and the Economic Aid Team.

"I also sit on the grant fund council which doles out money for student projects. As well, I chair the External Affairs Committee."

Muir is also involved in the Ontario University Students Alliance, which works to improve affordability, accessibility and quality of higher education in Ontario.

When voting for vice president keep in mind that the VP has a great deal of personal influence on the

areas in which they choose to work and on the committees they choose to sit on.

The Board of Directors

In the organizational structure of WLUSU, the BOD is the first level of power, under the student population. "WLUSU is an organization meant to provide for the needs of students, the board's job is to identify those needs and prioritize them and then task the organization as a whole in how to complete those objectives," explained the current chair of the board, Matthew Park.

This year, there's controversy over all of the BOD members being acclaimed. Park contributes this to several factors, including "lack of controversial issues, to contentment in the student population."

Park also attributes lack of interest in criticism that the current board was ineffective in engaging the student population, but says there are several factors. "I think it's difficult to pinpoint any one cause of why it's acclaimed," said Park.

Although 10 members are acclaimed for next year, students can attend board meetings which are held weekly to address any needs they want met by WLUSU.

WHERE TO VOTE
ARTS:
CONCOURSE

BUSINESS:
SBE ATRIUM

MUSIC:
AIRD BUILDING

SCIENCE
(INCLUDING
ARTS PSYCHOLOGY):
SCIENCE ATRIUM

VOTING HOURS:
FEB. 1 8am-7:30pm



Contributed Photo

Student marketplace

WLUSU gives budding WLU student entrepreneurs an opportunity to sell wares and services in the Concourse for free

ASHLEY JANG
STAFF WRITER

Laurier will be holding its third annual student marketplace on March 1 in the Concourse. The student marketplace began last winter and is now held every term. It's an opportunity for WLU student vendors to promote their products or services.

"Student marketplace is basically a place where entrepreneurs of the Laurier student body come and sell any products or services that they have developed," said Shannon Hall, PR coordinator for the marketing department of WLUSU.

Funded through WLUSU, each vendor is given a booth in the Concourse from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm to sell their product or service to students.

The student marketplace is a good opportunity for students who want to become entrepreneurs but lack the financial means to promote their products or services effectively.

"We basically promote the event and let them set up a booth in the concourse for free," said Hall.

Booking a booth in the Concourse can get pretty expensive. Prices range from \$50-\$100 for one day, depending on the time of

year, while it will cost you anywhere from \$300-\$750 to book the entire Concourse.

"We've had a couple of students who have rented out booths a couple of times but it gets to be pretty expensive after a while," said Hall. The student marketplace is open to any Laurier student.

Students can apply for a spot

"It's just a way for us to support the student body by giving them free exposure and promotion."

Shannon Hall, WLUSU PR coordinator

by simply filling out a vendor application.

"They have to fill out a vendor application letting us know about the product or service so that we can ensure it is something that we approve of," said Hall.

According to Hall, once the vendors have had their time in the Concourse, they are given further exposure on the WLUSU website.

"We post their information and pictures on our PR website as well."

All of the entrepreneurs from the fall student marketplace will be re-

turning for the upcoming one.

"We have about 7 or 8 vendors lined up so far but we're still doing promotions in the Hall of Fame on February 6 and 13, where we'll have vendor applications available for students to sign up," said Hall.

There is room for about 15-20 tables for this event, which ensures that each vendor has enough room and is not too crowded.

The student marketplace is not exclusively for products and services.

According to Hall, there have also been students promote their mu-

sic by selling their CDs and playing samples in the Concourse.

"Just as long as they fill out the vendor application and it's something that we think will benefit students and is something that they would want to buy then they can participate."

The winter student marketplace is a great way for Laurier entrepreneurs to gain exposure.

"It's just a way for us to support the student body by giving them free exposure and promotion," said Hall.

How to make a quick \$20

With a summer paycheque four months away, here's the down low on how to score some dough

LAURA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

As second semester gets well underway most students' summer savings dwindle along with their dedication of going to class, staying on top of readings and studying for those fast approaching midterms.

In order to score just enough cash to buy some milk and Kraft Dinner, pay your hydro bill for the month or enjoy a night of cheap drinking at Phil's, here are some suggestions of quick ways to earn a little extra cash.

1) Take back all your bottles

Although 10 cents per beer bottle may not seem like a lot of money it can really add up. So invite all your buddies over, encourage them to slam back as many beers as possible and lay claim to all the empties.

And although loading up your car with smelly beer bottles is probably the last thing you want to do when you're hungover, you'll be laughing when you have enough money to flat out buy another 24.

2) Try the babysitting thing

Although babysitting is something you may not have done since the age of twelve, when it was empowering to finally be the one in control of other people, it's a good way to make easy cash.

Spread the word with local friends that you are looking for work.

And remember that staying in with a couple of toddlers on a Saturday night will not only earn you some extra income but it's also a good excuse to crack open your text books once you've put the kids to bed.

3) Offer to do your roommate's chores

Most of us have that one roommate who is just too lazy to actually vacuum the house or take out the garbage though according to the chore wheel it's definitely their turn.

So offer to take on their chores for the entire month for the mere fee of \$20. Bonus: there's a good chance that the bickering in the house will go down if everyone's chores are done on time.

4) Throw a kegger

Although this has some initial costs, having a kegger can be a great way not only to ensure you have an awesome Friday night, but you can also make some money while partying.

After the costs of replacing a broken table, paying off your noise violation ticket, splitting profits with your roommates, and replacing your stolen shoes, \$20 seems like a reasonable amount to expect in the end.

5) Hit up your parents for some cash

Although this may be the last resort for some people (and one that is not likely to always succeed) chances are if you are really in desperate need your parents won't refuse to help you out.

So either take the time to really explain the situation (make sure to leave out how you seem to mysteriously drop at least \$60 every time you go to the bar) or offer to do something in return for the loan (just think how happy they'll be when you promise to do chores everyday over reading week).

Just don't try to milk your parents for too much, or they'll throw the "responsibility/independence" lecture your way.

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Our Bat Boy

Laurier Musical Theatre presents chiropteran incest at its bloodthirsty best and triumphs

ESTHER WHEATON
CORD A&E

Bat Boy: The Musical has nothing to do with either Batman or baseball. This year's production by the Laurier Musical Theatre, put on over the course of this past weekend, had a simple plot: a "bat boy" is found in a cave and scares the bejeezus out of the townsfolk of a small mountain-side hamlet.

The county veterinarian's kindly wife and daughter adopt Bat Boy. Bat Boy becomes civilized (in a *My Fair Lady*-esque, single-song scene), while at the same time the town is afflicted with cattle-raising problems and the deaths of the Taylor children. With such tragedies, the townsfolk need a scapegoat, and the vampire teeth and Vulcan ears of Bat Boy are too good to pass up. So, they get their guns and go looking for Bat Boy, who has run off with the vet's daughter.

Throw a dark family secret into the mix and you get a cult favourite, liberally peppered with a wide variety of rock-musical styled songs, classic one-liners, and merciless parodies of classic musicals like *Rent*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *The Lion King*.

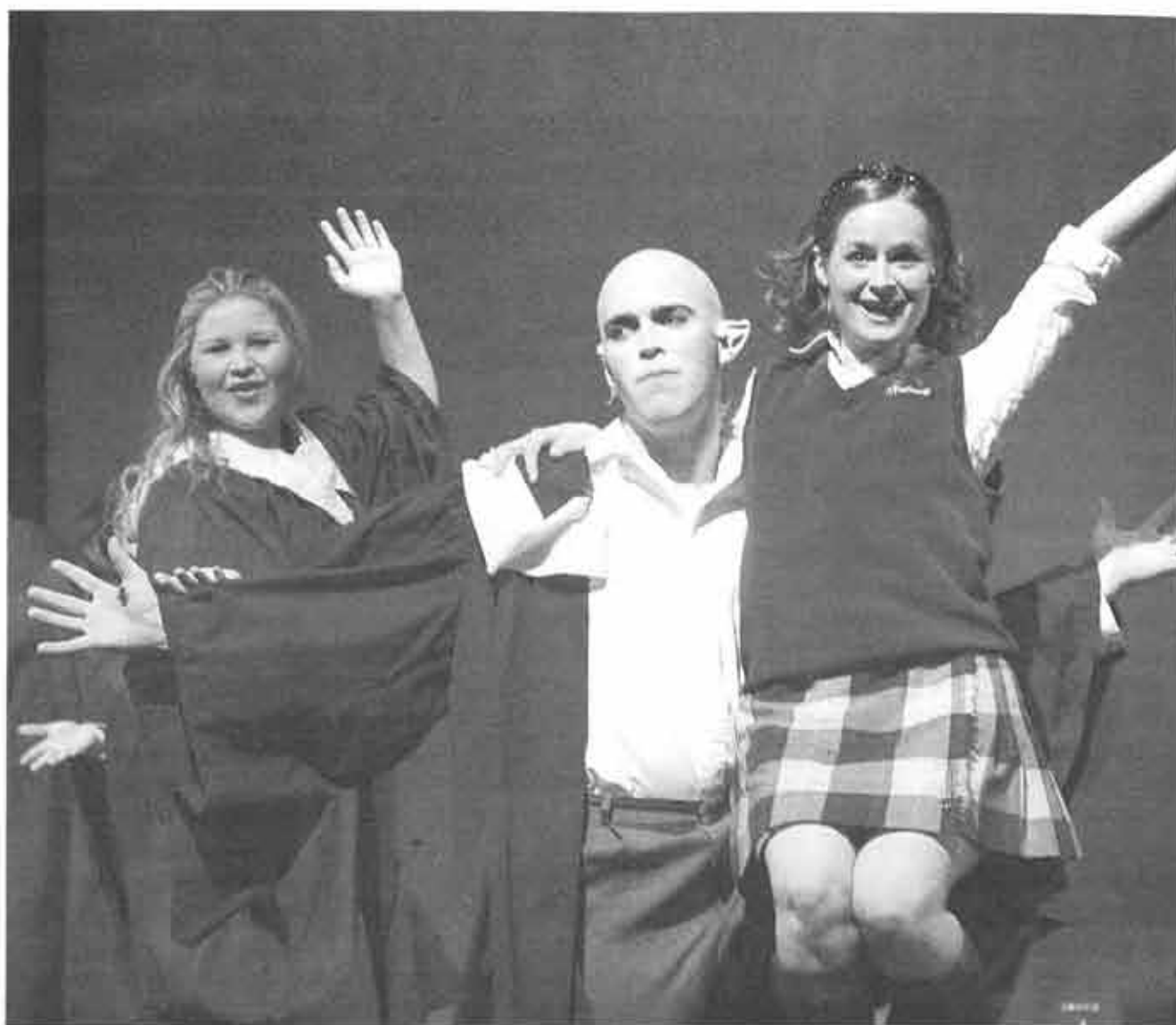
On the other hand, although the musical is charming and fun, *Bat Boy* is not fated for eternal glory. Apart from solid music and lyrics, the occasional memorable one-liner and its general quirkiness, the show hasn't got much going

for it. The humour is campy and sophomoric, and gets old real fast. The descent into the plot's surprisingly dark interior is somewhat ludicrous, as is the ending, which leaves the audience wondering if it wasn't just the quickest way to get out of the hole.

Still, *Bat Boy* is a fun show and very well put on by Laurier's Musical Theatre company. The cast members all contributed good performances, especially by Jodi Jahnke (Mrs. Parker, the vet's wife) and Tammy Whetham (Shelley, the vet's love-struck daughter), who blew everyone away with their excellent musical performances, especially in "Three Bedroom House". Clara Hilts proved to the world that she is truly "black on the inside" with her soulful illustration of Reverend Billy Hightower, and Mark Ross portrayed the gleefully maleficent-but-hurting-on-the-inside Dr. Parker to great effect.

The star of the show, Bat Boy himself, was played by Ken Aldridge, whose wonderful acting and Gollum-meets-Yoda impression balanced out the many wonderfully out-of-tune solo moments.

The choreography was fun, especially for the "Children, Children" number, featuring Jon Krohn as Pan, as well as what must have been the entire company in outrageous animal costumes essentially having a mock orgy onstage. Props to Laura Killeen, the choreographer, and, while props are being distributed,



Shane Porter

HOLD ME BAT BOY - Laurier's own Bat Boy, Ken Aldridge, shows that even a guy with pointy ears and a tendency to drink blood can find the woman of his dreams, as long as she is his sister.

to lighting designer Chris Knarr and stage managers Michelle Lutz and Sarah Erdman.

Also worthy of mention is the uber-fantastic pit band led by Brendan Whiting (who looked as though he was having more fun than anyone else during the course of the show) and featuring Laura McGuire on keyboards, Dan Beacock on guitar, Beth Curley on bass and Daniel MacPherson on drums.

Distinctive highlights of the musical include the many hick jokes, Roy-the-rancher's mullet;

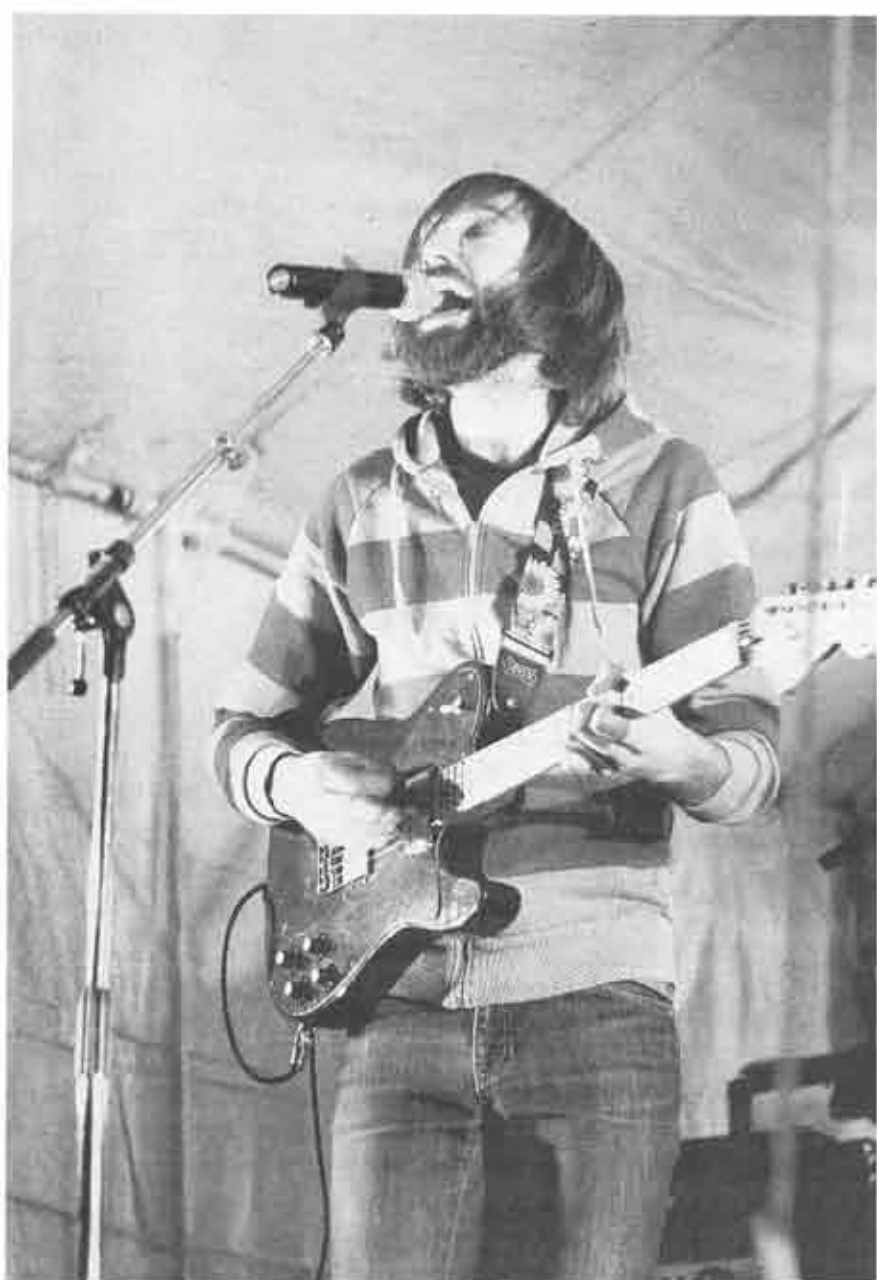
the "voices in Dr. Parker's head" which resembled little more than a cross between rampaging monks and a photo-negative of the KKK; the phrase "Sa-WEET wounded Jesus!" the slaughterhouse prop's message: "Rick + Your Mom"; Mrs. Taylor's similarity to Yzma from "The Emperor's New Groove"; the cow head, and a baby Bat Boy being hoisted away by bats.

Some lowlights of the show include the faulty mics of Dr. Parker, the questionable tuning of Bat Boy, Rick and the Company, and the way

(in big, dramatic moments) that the clarity of the lyrics got sacrificed in favour of volume.

These mishaps did very little, however, to the general excellence of the performance.

Laurier Musical Theatre is a campus club at WLU that grew out of the 2003/2004 on-campus production of *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*. In the years following, LMT has produced the musicals *Fame* (2005) and *Urinetown* (2006), as well as multiple renditions of *Cabaret*.



Sydney Holland

THE JUNCTION'S FUNCTION - The Junction's Brent Jackson was a strong point at an otherwise disappointing Polar Jam 2007.

Do WLU students really want to Polar Jam?

After two disappointing years, the situation is critical for the once promising festival

JOE TURCOTTE
A&E EDITOR

Other than hockey and beer there might not be anything more Canadian than good music and snow. What with our nation's propensity for churning out solid musicians (see Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, the Tragically Hip, Moxy Fruvous, *et al.*) and the country's northern and frost-bitten climate, Canadians have become accustomed to dealing with cold weather in order to embrace talented musicianship.

And yet, in spite of this seemingly natural inclination to brave frigid temperatures, Waterloo's annual Polar Jam music festival seems doomed to fail.

Sure, such a concert will inevi-

tably be cold and wet, however, there is nothing that necessarily says that a winter outdoor musical festival should be empty of fans, or at least disappointingly devoid of concert-goers.

When last year's first-ever Polar Jam, a collaboration between Wilfrid Laurier University's Student's Union (WLUSU) and the University of Waterloo's Federation of Students (Feds), was announced, there were many reasons for optimism. A collaborative effort between two historically and geographically linked institutions seemed long overdue. And the possibility to create a tradition that could transcend the limitations created by a university setting was far too intriguing to pass up.

As WLUSU's Programming and Promotions Manager Phil Champagne says, "I really thought that the idea that we had come up with last year was cool, and could have grown into something that could have been taken out of the schools' hands and grown into part of the city's culture."

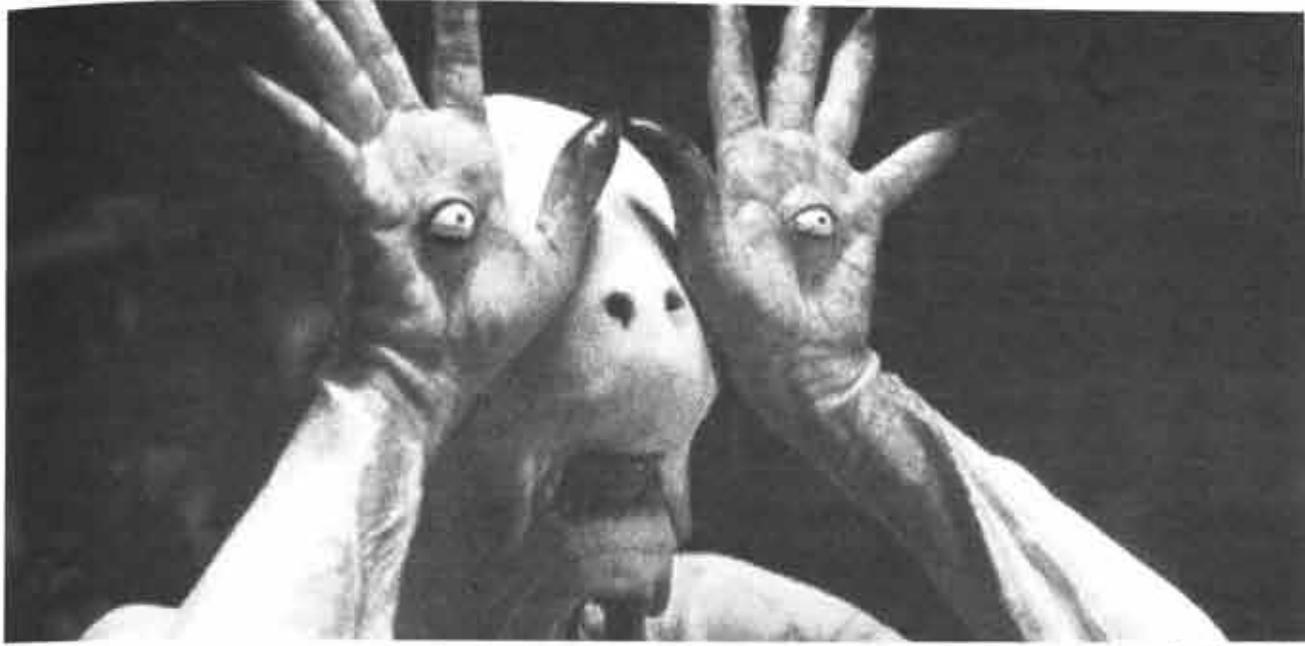
The idea of an outdoor winter-

concert festival sure is romantic: the notion of a group of university students hanging outside, watching people snowboard and ski, while listening to quality Canadian music seems as though it is the type of event that can evolve and become a mainstay of a city's culture - in the same vein as Oktoberfest or the Up-town Waterloo Jazz Festival.

However, as this year's disappointing showing to Polar Jam demonstrates, there might not be a market for such a festival among the university students of WLU or the University of Waterloo.

Although this year's festival boasted many household musical acts, including the evening's headliners Thornley, the up-and-coming Idle Sons and the Canadian hip-hop act Brassmunk, the 2007 edition of Polar Jam was marred by poor attendance and generally lackluster crowd enthusiasm. While the nearly arctic temperatures may have driven off more than a few potential concert-goers, Polar Jam '07

- SEE DEAD, PAGE 17



Contributed Photo

HANDS WHERE MY EYES CAN SEE - Pan Labrynth's Pale Man demonstrates the film's fantasy flair.

Pan's brilliance

Oscar-nominated film meets lofty expectations

DRU JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

In the darkness of sleep, our unconscious minds will accept lapses in logical cause and effect — it's only when our conscious minds get in the way that the logic of dreams leaves something to be desired. That's why we want movies to make some kind of narrative sense, to take us by the hand on a journey with a clearly distinguishable departure point and destination.

But in the darkness of the cinema, with our collective guard down, what's the harm in taking a trip into a dream for two hours of our waking lives? Guillermo del Toro's *El Laberinto del Fauno* (AKA *Pan's Labyrinth*) asks us to take that trip.

It opens with a typical fairy tale prologue, but then immediately thrusts us into the grim reality of World War II Spain. We see our child protagonist, Ofelia (twelve-year-old Ivana Banquero), bleeding from the mouth — but in reverse, as if she's bleeding not to death, but to life. From there, the narrative abandons its relative fluidity in favour of traditional cause-and-effect.

Ofelia and her pregnant mother are en route to live under the father of Ofelia's brother-to-be, a high-ranking Captain in the Spanish military. On the way, the curious girl wanders away from the car, entranced by a decaying one-eyed

statue to which she has discovered the missing piece.

Like a puzzle, she inserts the sculpture's eye into place, only to have a strange insect emerge from its mouth—a fairy, she thinks. When they arrive at Captain Vidal's house, the bug leads Ofelia into a labyrinth that houses mystical creatures, which welcome her as a Princess.

The mood that del Toro creates, which is Grimm and grim in equal parts, makes even these opening scenes — which sound perfectly banal as I write them — exciting, foreboding and magical. When the insect eventually transforms into what Ofelia thinks a fairy should look like, it makes for one of the best moments in recent cinematic memory.

If only the rest of the creatures would bend to suit the young girl's preconceptions of what fairy tale creatures should look and act like. There is a grotesquery of a giant toad, whose demise is Cronenberg-esque in its sheer gruesomeness. There is the Pale Man (Doug Jones) with eyes in his hands, who out-creeps the likes of any creature from *Hellraiser* (or any other horror movie I've seen, for that matter). There is the faun, a horned creature whose alliances are never quite certain, who keeps the titular labyrinth. From his appearance, I'd guess he hails from somewhere between Narnia and Hell. And then there are the humans, who can be more demonic than the Devil

himself.

While the creatures might look a fright, the humans are the ones who will bash in your nose with a billyclub, shoot you in the belly and let you slowly bleed to death, or torture you for pleasure. The little details, like the ubiquitous crunching of the Captain's too-tight leather gloves, are more off-putting than any of the horrors in the labyrinth—and del Toro knows it, which is why he concentrates the vast majority of the film's running time on the humans rather than the monsters.

When Ofelia's wonderful flights of fancy take over the narrative, it's a welcome and well-needed reprieve from the horrors of WWII.

But it's not until the final moments of the film that any of the creatures lose their edge, thanks to an inspired, if fleeting, shift in cinematographic style. The horrors of the labyrinth are suddenly more Jim Henson than Clive Barker, and we can finally live happily ever after—if only in dreams. That's where the darkness comes in handy.

Pan's Labrynth

Director: Guillermo del Toro
Starring: Adriana Gil, Ivana Banquero, Sergi Lopez, Doug Jones

Recommendation:

SEE IT, IT'S WORTH IT

Is Polar Jam dead?

- FROM DEAD PAGE 16

was hard pressed to find a solid fan-base.

This less-than-stellar support occurred in spite of a solid lineup of musical acts. From closer to opener Polar Jam '07 featured acts that delivered, rather than disappointed. The evening's headliner, Thornley, was able to mix old material from the band's first album with songs from front-man Ian Thornley's career as Big Wreck's frontman to create a strong hard-rock set.

The band also found time to creatively engineer medleys that incorporated Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" and U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday" in order to cap off an evening that allowed a diverse array of musical acts to demonstrate their respective prowess.

The musical ability of Thornley was also demonstrated by the other bands who filled out the evening's lineup. Idle Sons brought their brand of melodic hard rock to the stage at Fed Hall, while the aforementioned Brassmunk was able to infuse the festival with a shot of Canadian hip-hop flavour.

Apart from these well-known and up-and-coming acts, the reggae-infused The Junction was able to storm the stage and help to warm up the few dedicated fans that were in attendance, as the

band had the majority of the small crowd bobbing and swaying along with their musical offerings.

With such strong out-of-town acts filling the event's second half of the bill, Polar Jam looked towards the Kitchener-Waterloo area in order to fill out the show. Former *Last Band Standing* winners In Transit brought some harmonic-pop-rock to the frozen tundra of Fed Hall, while K-W's own Saigon Hookers opened the festival with the band's signature array of aggressive hard-rock punk-inspired music.

Much like the inaugural Polar Jam, Polar Jam '07 featured a mixed array of talented musicians that helped to create a unique and entertaining concert experience. Unfortunately, however, also like Polar Jam '06, Polar Jam '07 was defined by disappointingly poor attendance.

This poor attendance, which has demonstrated that the winter-concert festival is not economically feasible, has called the future of the event into question.

If, in fact, the promise of Polar Jam melts away, it surely will be a loss to the K-W community. While the prospects of spending a day outside in the cold listening to music may be daunting, they are, inevitably utterly Canadian and worthy of more than a passing glance.

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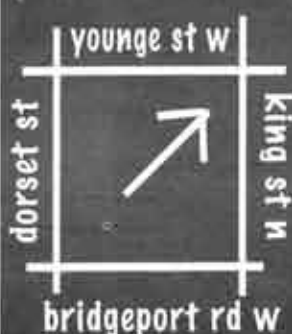
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> Heart of the City: A regular look at what's going down in Uptown Waterloo

Waterloo's paper trail



MARTA ORŁOWSKA
CORD A&E

The Canadian zine scene has been growing at an incredible rate. Last year's Canzine at the Gladstone Hotel was so packed with exhibitors that there was barely enough room for the public to walk around. The do-it-yourself nature of zines has made them a favourite form of independent publication. In the last two years, Waterloo has produced two spectacular zines: the monthly *CTRPLLR* and the quarterly *Scared of my Mate*.

CTRPLLR started in late 2005 and is now on its 18th issue. Marc Lecompte began *CTRPLLR* with the purpose of having an entertaining local publication that could bring about a sense of community and get people more involved in things that were going on in the city.

As for who writes for the zine, Lecompte says, "People send me stuff over e-mail. Although I am essentially the editor, there is no discrimination against anyone's ideas: the whole concept is that it's an open forum for anyone to write what they want."

The contents of *CTRPLLR* are a surprise each month - previous issues have featured pieces on how to win at a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors and a critique of pirate jokes. The standard features you can anticipate each month are interviews with local bands, show listings, a spotlight on a neighbourhood person and a bizarre ad for Ethel's Lounge.

"What I like about it is the fact

that you can pick it up and read different people's opinions on a myriad of topics, and it is totally uncensored," Lecompte adds, as he discusses how *CTRPLLR* fills its pages.

Scared of my Mate is a more recent zine run by five gals that bring cut-and-paste to a new level. The quarterly zine is approaching its third issue. The past two issues have been stock-full of poetry, short stories, artwork, and book reviews from local writers and artists. Highlights from the last issues include Cara Vandermeij's "Once a Day, Friend" cartoons and Amy Borkwood's quirky "A Short Introduction to Witchery".

Both zines are distributed throughout Uptown Waterloo, and are free for anyone who will take the time to flip through them. The Jane Bond, Ethel's Lounge, Orange



Marta Orłowska

INDEPENDENT THOUGHT - Waterloo's 'zine scene is full of wit and fun.

Monkey and Gen X are a few places where you can find them - *CTRPLLR* at the beginning of each month, and *Scared of my Mate* when the editors decide that a quarter of the

year has once again passed.

So pick one up and find out what is going on - in the city and in the minds of those who share Waterloo with you.

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FRIDAY NIGHTS

kw|ag

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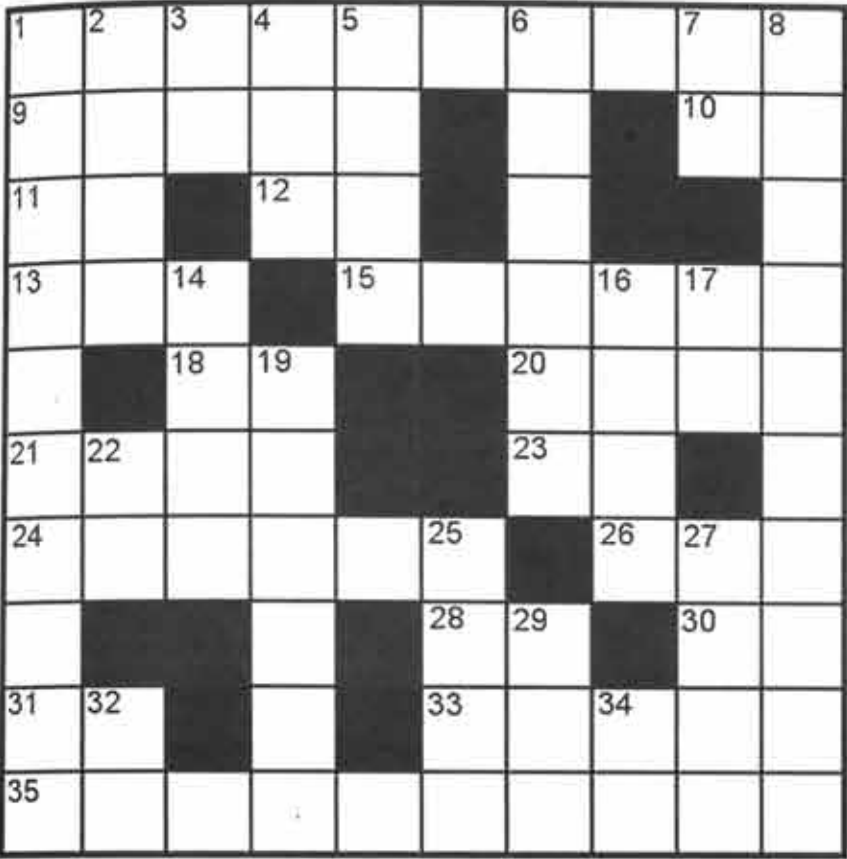
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CROSSWORD by Adam Faber



- Across
- Down
1. Trousers of old

9. Winter will bring many

10. Cooler of the house

11. "She lover you __, __, __"

12. Police jargon for "Upon getting there"

13. Lifeguard lifesaving measure

15. Succession of light taps

18. Home of summer

20. Jokes about my mom often suggests she's this

21. Age reversing cream?

23. State belonging to Providence

24. Combining an Actor and D&D geek

26. RBC's cartoon mascot

28. Exclamation of pain

30. High school cameraman's club

31. Common video game money

33. Persian language

35. What did the espresso say to the tardy espresso?
1. Study of minds

2. My Nan takes one every day

3. It means it, especially on a date

4. Can be as bad as one

5. Quickly acronym

6. Apparently there's a cult for blue ones

7. Doesn't have bearing

8. Agglomeration of horror films

14. 26 across' cry

16. Found on dogs, in bars

17. .com's equivalent in Spain

19. X-Man who translates, word-play on encryption

22. Generic song syllable

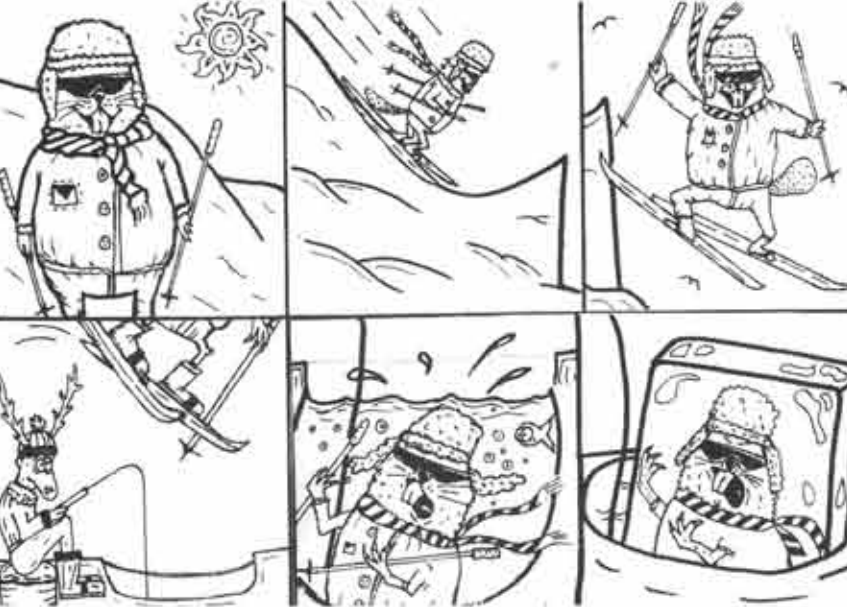
25. High humour praise, in IM terms

27. Direction (not house) of the rising sun

32. Tinky-Winky's companion

34. 'S's neighbors

The Screaming Beaver by Sarah Bradfield



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	7				8	
9			1	8		5
			6	4	7	
3		1	2		5	8
8						6
7		2	4		6	9
			7	6	3	
6			9		2	
	3					5

WIN KW-SYMPHONY TICKETS

The first person to bring the completed **Sudoku** puzzle to Angela at the Cord office (in the basement of Mac House) will receive 2 tickets to see "KWS Signature Series" with Todd Yaniv on Friday, February 9 at 8pm in Centre in the Square.

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THE CORD WEEKLY

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Love all athletes

As any championship-winning school should, Laurier prides itself in having one of the best football programs in the country. But it's time that students take notice of some of the other winners we have at this institute.

It's bad enough that the lacrosse team won yet another championship this season in front of more metal stands than fans, but is it too much to ask that we start supporting some of the other teams that bear the Golden Hawk logo?

More specifically, students need only to turn their attention to the fan base (or lack thereof) of our men's and women's hockey teams.

While the Waterloo Rec Complex is a 15 minute walk (gasp!) off campus, Waterloo regularly packs more people into the freezer they call Columbia Icefield any given game night.

With 3,400 seats available at the Complex, things just don't seem to add up. Individual seating, decent concessions and above-average hockey — why aren't the fans showing up?

Take our Lady Hawks for instance. Running away with the OUA yet again this year, it looks like the squad has an excellent chance of winning their fifth provincial title in six years — and fourth in a row. The team also won a national gold medal last year, and a national silver medal the year before that.

The men, on the other hand, seem to finally be turning the corner with first-year bench boss Kelly Nobes. Not since their heydays in the late '80s, when they won back-to-back OUA titles, have the Hawks iced a squad this strong. Sitting at the seven spot in the national rankings, it looks like WLU may have two legitimate contenders on the ice.

The blame must fall on Laurier Athletics. There certainly is no excuse for barely drawing a hundred fans in a city that boasts one of the most highly-attended Ontario Hockey League franchises in the province — and all of Canada for that matter. Regularly having the Kitchener Auditorium fill up with 6,000-plus fans every weekend is the clearest sign that this region is mad about the frozen game.

It's time the word got out via radio broadcasts (as is done for football conveniently enough) or TV spots on local television that our Hawks are out there.

At the beginning of this campaign, things seemed to start on the right foot with bus transportation from the school to the arena. Granted, many fans didn't take up the offer the first time, but what kind of logistics are involved when the service is cut after only *one* game?

Put a little more heart into it and the fans will come. For as long as these teams have worn theirs on their sleeves, it's the least that could be done.

Female dean power

Laurier loves powerful women. Last week, it was announced that Dr. Deborah MacLatchy was hired as Laurier's newest dean of science, replacing Dr. Arthur Szabo effective July 1. MacLatchy will mark the fifth female dean at Laurier out of eight dean positions.

Dr. Sue Horton, VP: Academic indicated that this may make Laurier the only school in Canada with more female deans than male. Well bravo, Laurier, bravo. At a school whose student population has more ladies than fellas, it's refreshing to see that trend reflected in the faculty. And beneficial too.

More female deans indicates that the hiring committees are choosing the candidates they truly believe to be the best with no concern to the "old boys' mentality" of men being better choices than females.

Additionally, the female deans provide successful role models for Laurier's female students, allowing them to envision themselves in important positions within academia.

So congratulations, Laurier, for being so open-minded and progressive. It sends the right message to Laurier students, the KW community, and the academic world. Girl power!

These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.



Mallory O'Brien

Please don't vote

If you're ignorant to the issues and candidates, ignore WLUSU elections

MIKE BROWN
NEWS EDITOR

Welcome to the parade of empty promises, widespread apathy and ignorant voting. It's WLUSU election time!

You'll have to excuse my cynicism, but having attended more than 90 percent of WLUSU board meetings and more or less living on campus since I was hired as news editor nearly a year ago, I've come to know the issues affecting this campus and its students fairly intimately.

And one of the unfortunate side effects of that knowledge is the subsequent understanding of how few students know a damn thing about WLU — an ignorance that reaches its painfully obvious climax this time of year.

It's easy to criticize institutional weaknesses of the WLUSU election structure, and it's something we at the *Cord* have done when we have felt it necessary. We've called them on their lack of advertising and poor awareness of the responsibilities associated with their elected positions, and I think there are certainly weaknesses that require redress.

But I'm not interested in ragging on WLUSU's elected officials here. They're not perfect, but I do admire that they care enough to spend countless hours working hard for the students of this campus — students that, with few exceptions, spend four years drinking, playing video games, attending the occasional class and otherwise taking for granted the work of their elected representatives. It

is this student disinterest and ignorance that makes our elections a joke.

One need not look far into our school's history to see that our elections are nothing more than a popularity contest. Last year, Allan Cayenne was elected president in a landslide vote and he's done a very good job — but he won because he was the most recognizable face and name, not because of a word that came out of his mouth. No one was listening anyway.

Here at WLUSP, we too are far from beyond reproach. Our election last year was a three-ring circus, with the now-infamous Zack Weinberg, the man who has brought more backlash upon our organization than anyone else in the last two years, coming within 75 votes of actually taking it over. It was a frightening example of how knowing people can often be more important than knowing ... well, anything else.

But perhaps the most obvious example of popularity winning elections can be found in the person of Yusuf Faqiri. Undeniably one of the most well-known students on campus, he has been elected as a director for back-to-back years. In his first term, he was singled out by almost every one of his peers as the least effective director and was even asked to resign. And how did the student body react? We re-elected him, of course.

Faqiri has now set his sights on becoming the vice president of university affairs and if elections at Laurier have taught me anything, he's likely going to win. Popularity generally trumps better sense.

But for Faqiri's opponent, current vice-chair of the board Lau-

ren McNiven, there is hope. After all, it seems the only more effective means of securing votes than straight-up popularity is having a vagina. Last year, 27 candidates ran for 15 spots on the board. Six were female. All six were elected. Apparently, we're allowed to be sexist as long as it's pro-female.

Even Agatha Przybylska, who failed to show up for the open forum, was elected. Imagine my shock when she failed to attend a single meeting in first term before resigning when questions started to be raised.

Now please don't get me wrong. It was great to see six women elected to last year's board and frankly, on a predominately female campus such as our own, that's still not nearly enough for a representative body. However, the solution that I heard all-too-often in voting lines of "just voting for all the women" is a far too simplistic approach. Rather, we need to encourage more thoughtful, engaged women to run in the elections, instead of just desperately throwing our support the way of any woman that runs.

But I digress. That is just one of the many ways in which Laurier students cast hopelessly misinformed votes.

And so, when polls open at 8 am tomorrow, my plea is simple. Just don't vote. Forget the pleas to vote responsibly. Those who will do so don't need to hear it. My request is much simpler. If you don't know anything about the issues, the candidates or what they stand for, just stay away from the polls. Admit your ignorance and leave these important decisions to those who have a fucking clue.

letters@cordweekly.com

> Letters to the Editor

LETTER OF THE WEEK:

WATERBUFFALOES APOLOGIZE

The Waterbuffaloes would like to apologize to anyone who was offended by our actions during Winter Carnival.

The theme this year was Around the World which led to teams picking a variety of countries or worldly themes to depict throughout the week.

Unfortunately, many stereotypes were exploited and we acknowl-

edge our team took our theme too far at the beginning of the week. In Winter Carnival teams typically approach the line, and this year we did not realize at the time that we were crossing it. For this we are very sorry.

After considering our actions as a team, we realized our costumes were inappropriate so we made the necessary changes for the re-

mainder of the week. For the rest of the week our team acted in the spirit of Winter Carnival and we feel we tried our best to reverse any damage we might have done on Monday. We realize it seems like we have not communicated our apologies, however we have been talking directly with WLUSU representatives; furthermore we wrote an apology to the *Cord* last week,

and for whatever reason it was not received by the deadline.

Hopefully we can put this incident behind us, but we want everyone to know that we had no ill intentions; it was simply a stupid mistake that we wish we could take back. We also hope this does not tarnish your opinion of the Waterbuffaloes and all the hard working individuals under the organiza-

tion that work hard every year to provide social outlets for students while supporting local charities. I also hope this does not overshadow the hard work of the Winter Carnival volunteers and other participants because overall it was a very positive week for those involved.

Sincerely,
The Waterbuffaloes

Downloading music not illegal

Sydney Helland in her article "Digital generation doesn't value music" states on multiple occasions that downloading music is illegal. However, contrary to this popular belief, downloading music in Canada is not illegal.

In a ruling against the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) who wanted a court order to identify 29 uploaders, Justice Konrad von Finckenstein said that "they merely placed personal copies in their shared directories that were accessible by other computer users via a P2P service." (www.cbc.ca)

Downloading a song for personal use is not an infringement.

Placing a song in an on-line music-sharing directory such as Kazaa is not considered distribution.

If sharing music were illegal we would not be able to borrow a friend's CD and copy it for our own personal use.

Helland is entitled to her opinion that we don't appreciate music as much because of downloading, I felt that it was necessary to point out the errors when she says that downloading music is illegal.

I still support and highly recommend buying music to help support artists.

knowledge

I'd just like to clarify to Yusuf Faquiri that OUSA is an acronym for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, contrary to any misconceptions presented in his platform. As OUSA Campus Coordinator, I have come to understand just how important the need is for a VP: UA who is supportive of the efforts of myself and my exec, and most importantly who understands the organization.

I fail to comprehend how Mr. Faquiri's blatant lack of knowledge of the organization will strengthen ties with them. I would also like to note that Lauren McNiven has met with me to gain a fuller understanding of OUSA and her potential future role with it. She has also been an attendee of OUSA policy conferences, something Mr. Faquiri could have also claimed to have done had he not dropped out at the last minute. I ask that students take this into consideration when they are deciding on the candidate for external representation of Laurier.

Kate Manktelow

WLUSU Idea of Diversity Flawed

The most recent incident featuring the participants of Winter Carnival (WC) highlights inherent problems with WLUSU's handling of diversity

as well as the culture of this school. It is undeniable that a certain line was crossed here. Blackface and KFC buckets are not funny, or fun to anyone, and had this occurred at a more racially diverse school, I believe there may have been student uproar.

Not only were certain hurtful stereotypes portrayed, but it's even more ironic considering that they got their Jamaican stereotype completely wrong. If the participants were more cultured perhaps they'd know more about other traditional foods like ox yail, curry goat, or jerk chicken. Instead they relied on a historically sensitive and racist image of blackface, which was a dark chapter of America's segregationist past.

It seems both the *Cord* and WLU-SU swept this under the rug. It's funny to me that somehow Zach Weinberg creates a huge uproar for simply implying WLU women are promiscuous. Yet a lot of the same women who feign disgust can likely be found on Turret Saturdays swaying off-tempo to the sounds of Nelly Furtado, or Fergy Ferg. Is it simply okay to pick on minorities simply because they don't have the numbers to fight back at our institution? Since women are the majority at our school they were able to cause enough of a fuss to remove WLUSU advertising in the *Cord*, and get two radio Laurier DJs banned.

The theme of WC was touring the world, which is all well and good, but considering so many team

names were rejected (including one named after the largest continent on planet Earth), it's a pity that such ridiculous tasteless humor was allowed. I consider myself quite liberal and I don't believe in self-censorship, but I have to draw the line somewhere.

When an organization actively promotes its diverse image (and has a diversity coordinator), yet picks and chooses to censor words like Asia, and allows for a full-on minstrel show to occur in the Turret, that my friends is hypocrisy at its finest. Shame on WLUSU for shying away from covering the issue. I only hope that these incidents are not reflective of larger problems with racism at this school. While Laurier may seem friendly and open, I think some questions should be asked following this incident.

Rocky Li

A note from the president

I am writing this letter in regards to last week's article "Team theme taken too far." Following the incident that took place during Winter Carnival I have spoken with a number of concerned, upset and disgusted students.

First let me extend my sincerest of apologies to anyone who may have been offended by an incident that occurred during Winter Carni-

val. I would like to reiterate that the Students' Union does not encourage, accept or tolerate behaviour of this nature. The WLUSU cannot control the actions of individuals and I believe that the incident referred to in the article was dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner during the week.

Moving forward from this incident, I will be working on more effective proactive policies and procedures to ensure that incidents like this one do not occur at one of our events or in one of our venues. I invite any student who would like to be involved in the process of forming these policies and procedures, or if you would like to speak with me about the incident, to stop by my office on the third floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

Sincerely,
Allan Cayenne
WLUSU President & CEO

Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00pm Monday via email to letters@cordweekly.com or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

International tuition too high

Foreign students pay much higher scholastic fees but may not have the economic resources or means to do so



MONTREAL (CUP) -- Living in a new place is inherently hard for everybody, needless to say for international students in Canada. But besides having to overcome the difficulties brought on by living in a new environment, they have to pay much higher tuition fees than locals or permanent residents, regardless of where they are from. A question then arises: are these disproportionate fees reasonable

for international students, particularly from developing countries?

The fees for international students are extremely high, nearly four times higher than those for Canadians. Because of the fact that the United States and Japan are richer than, for example, China and India, I feel it is not reasonable for Canadian universities to apply the same standard in tuition fees to all international students.

It is helpful to look at what other countries charge university students. American students have to pay much more in the US than Canadian students do in Canada. For instance, people attending Ivy League schools generally pay over

US\$30,000 a year. Japanese students pay a comparable amount to Canadians. However, the tuition fees for

The Canadian government only allows international students to work off-campus after being full-time students for six months, provided that they have good academic standing.

Chinese and Indian students are far cheaper in their countries than fees for Canadian students in Canada.

If we consider the tuition fee Canadian students have to pay in

Canada as a benchmark, international students from the US and Japan are far more capable of paying the tuition fees in Canada than students from China and India. The actual reason is that they come from developing countries that have a relatively weaker ability to pay the tuition fees in Canada. So, it is just that tuition fees for international students from developing countries should be reduced in Canadian universities.

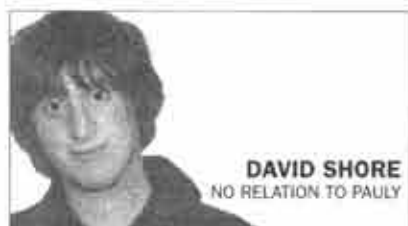
If some students from developing countries do not have enough money to pay their high tuition fees and

living expenses, they might look for some financial aid and awards or take up a part-time job. Most financial aid and many awards exclude international students, especially those who are from developing countries (the Higher Education Loan Plan is available for Americans only.) Thus, it is often difficult for international students to finish their programs.

So, many international students from developing countries have to look for a part-time job to help pay their tuition fees. However, it is often not easy for them to find one. To begin with, knowledge of English or

Vegetarianism not only option for animal-lovers

Buying organic meats will help reduce reliance on factory farms



DAVID SHORE
NO RELATION TO PAULY

For a week or two in first semester, I tried to become a vegetarian. Rather than receiving encouragement from my family and friends, I was shocked to find most people responded with ridicule.

I thought becoming a vegetarian would help me to eat healthier and to make a statement against the animal cruelty of our meat industry.

Why then, was the idea so laughable?

During my two weeks of daily pastas and salads, I concluded that vegetarianism was not the way to achieve either of these goals. (Okay, and I couldn't give up the taste of meat, but that's beside the point.)

To cut out meat entirely isn't healthy for our bodies. The Canadian Food Guide suggests two to three servings of protein a day, and no matter how many chick peas you eat, a good slab of steak is still the best source of it.

Of course, cutting out greasy hamburger meat and chicken wings is a good step towards healthy eating too.

Cutting out meat isn't the best way to bring down the factory farm either. Why remove yourself from the market entirely when you can use your influence as a consumer to make a difference?

Buying organic meat raised on free-range farms is as good a protest on factory farms as not eating meat at all. And it shows farmers that free-range farms are profitable, increasing the number of them we will see in the future. Not to men-

tion free-range meat is much healthier.

I realize that some vegetarians are against the consumption of meat altogether, and that's fine. But for those that take moral issue with the cruel treatment of animals, buying organic products makes a lot of sense.

During my brief time as an herbivore, I remember one friend in particular saying he would "sponsor" my vegetarianism. He would eat twice the meat to make up for me. Although this wasn't quite the type of assistance I was hoping for, my friend did have a point.

That is, we should be aiding our vegetarians, not ridiculing them or admonishing their odd dietary

Cutting out meat isn't the best way to bring down the factory farm either. Why remove yourself from the market entirely when you can use your influence as a consumer to make a difference?

choices. We would all like to see factory farms perish, yet while we continue to eat their products, vegetarians are taking a stand. They sacrifice the ideal dietary balance (and the delicious taste of bacon) to make a statement. In many ways, they deserve our applause.

But they require more than just our acceptance. They need our "sponsorship." The rest of us meat eaters can still fight for the same cause. This of course entails the purchase of free-range meat, organic products, and an attempt to boycott factory farmed meat wherever possible.

Free-range farming has come a

long way in the past decade. After numerous Mad Cow and Avian flu scares, it's becoming clear just how unsafe it is to keep animals in compact pens.

People have realized that free-range meat is not only much more humane and much healthier, but also more cost effective. However, the free-range farm still won't completely take off until consumers show that the factory farm is no longer acceptable.

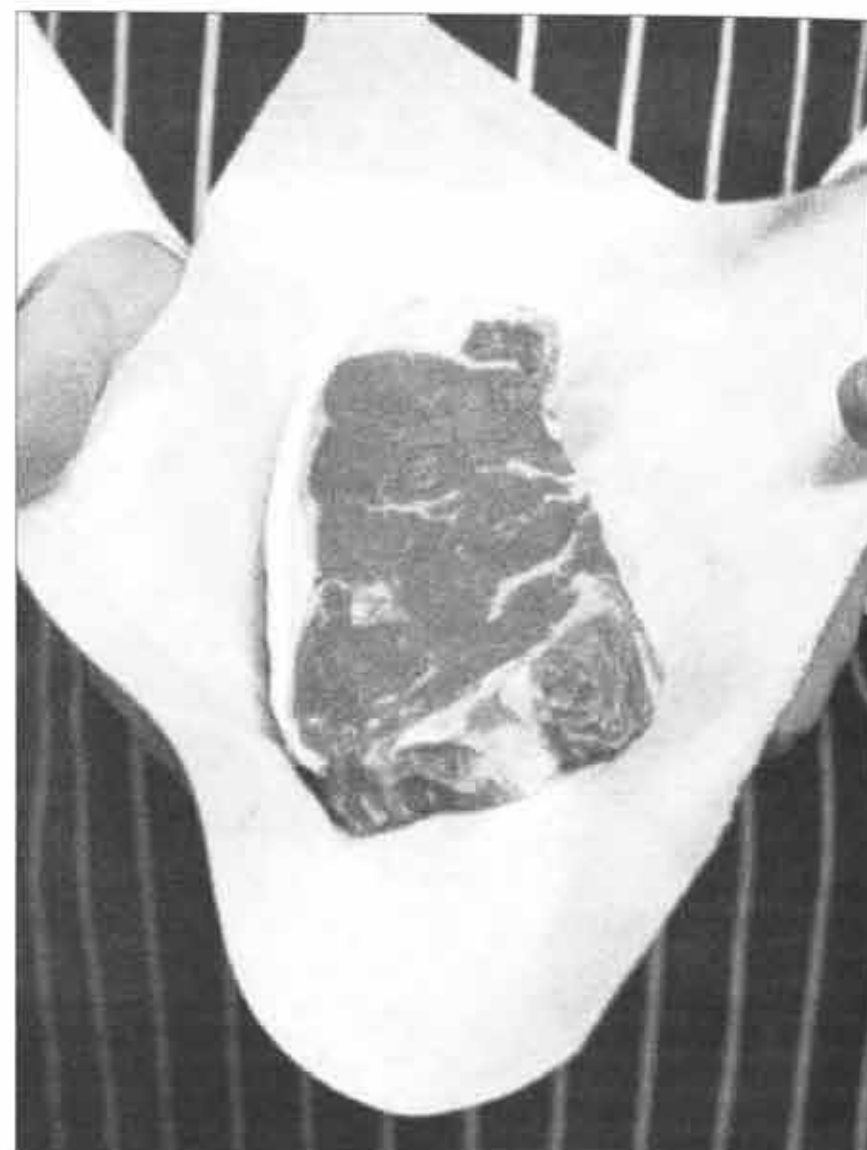
Part of this is to show that the factory farm would be less profitable. With the excessive amounts of meat we consume as a society, it would be difficult for free-range farms to completely meet the demand.

For an entirely free-range meat industry to be plausible, we must cut back significantly on our consumption. Even choosing vegetarian options for one meal every two or three days will have a large impact on how much meat we eat. And we could still easily get enough protein intake.

So if you find yourself in a similar situation to mine – upset by the meat-eating habits of individuals and our society – remember that vegetarianism isn't the only choice. Instead, sponsor the vegetarians we already have. By cutting back on meat rather than cutting it out and by supporting organic products, we can eventually put an end to animal cruelty.

Maybe when that happens, vegetarians will see it fit to eat meat again.

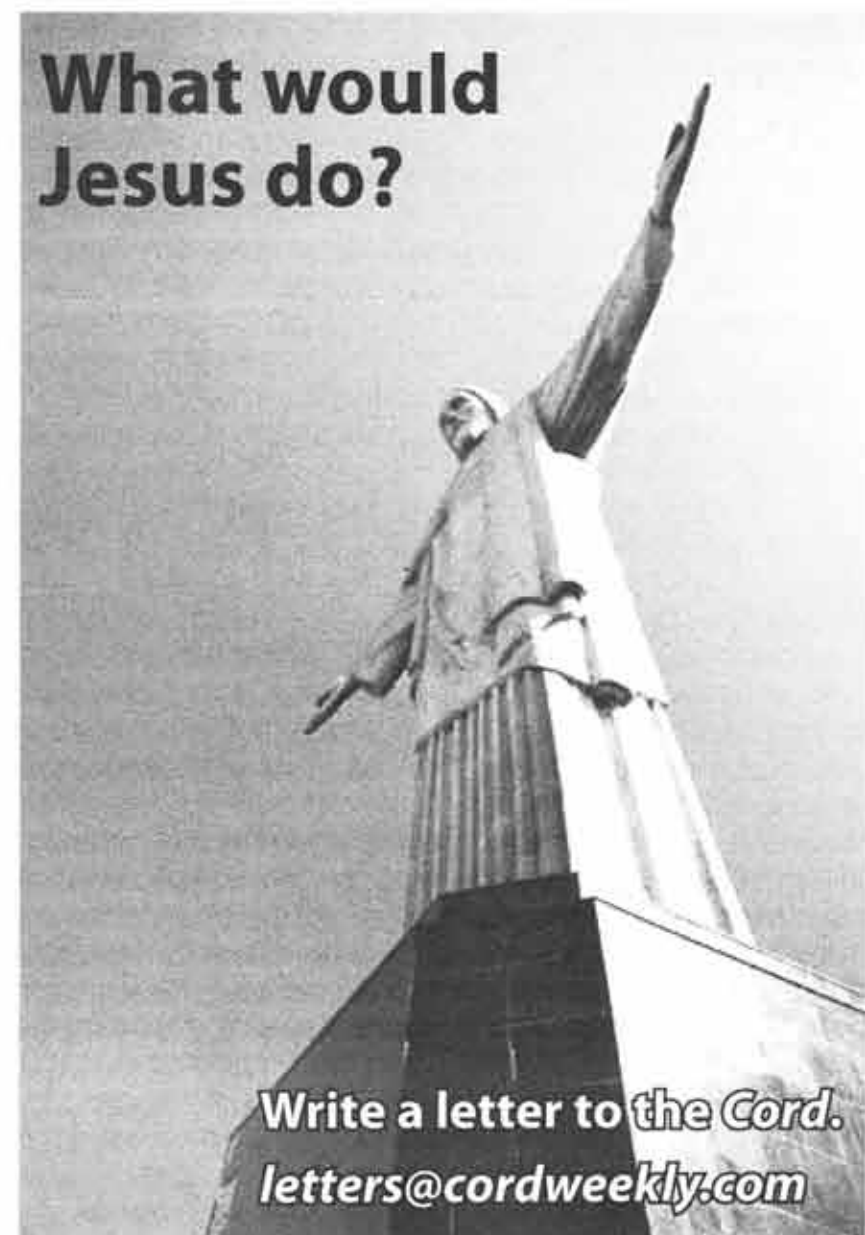
letters@cordweekly.com



Contributed Photo

MEATLOVER Instead of denying yourself delicious slabs of beef, just start buying organic.

What would Jesus do?



Write a letter to the Cord.
letters@cordweekly.com

Foreign students deserve break

The Canadian government should facilitate international students' ability to raise money while here and lower their school fees

- FROM **FOREIGN**, PAGE 21

French is a most important factor in the job hunt. Despite the resources available to improve language skills, most students from developing countries are at a disadvantage.

Secondly, the Canadian government only allows international students to work off-campus after being full-time students for six months, and provided that they have good academic standing. However, not every student

achieves the required grades, often because of the language barrier. Situations can then arise where international students who are doing poorly in school cannot even make the money to pay their tuition fees. One solution could be to reduce the cost of additional courses, such as required remedial English studies, which over half of the students from developing countries have to take. While language courses are obviously necessary for some international students,

the university seems to be taking advantage of a vulnerable group.

Another method is to provide better help in getting work both on and off campus. Positions on campus, such as technical jobs at the helpdesk, assistants in the bookstore and research and teaching assistant positions, could be controlled by a specific office within the university (possibly in association with the International Students Office) in order to have these positions assigned to those students with a good aca-

demic record. This would be to encourage diligent study, to improve English levels, as well as increase the public profile of the university.

Regarding off-campus jobs, I believe it would be beneficial if Canadian universities established an official association to provide international students with suitable opportunities. This association could recommend students to companies that are related to their majors or that need education in foreign languages that are their na-

tive tongues.

As the American proverb states, "Success is a ladder you cannot climb with your hands in your pockets." Although my proposal suggests only a modest reduction in international students' fees, it is the first but most important step for those from developing countries, including myself, to make a success of study in Canada.

letters@cordweekly.com

Who we're voting for

Based on candidates' platforms, open forum performances and websites, unaffiliated WLUSP staff offer their two cents



Steve Niles - Cord News and Opinion Writer

President - Dan Hocking

This race features two qualified candidates with similar platforms. They both have the requisite experience, and they both have the personal qualities required for the job. On one hand, Dan Allison can provide a fresh alternative (i.e. non-internal) for student leadership, while Dan Hocking carries with him a wealth of WLUSU experience. In the end, I'm giving the nod to Dan Hocking for his performance at the open forum. When inundated with

a litany of questions attacking his platform and personal record, his answers demonstrated his strong character and his extensive knowledge of issues.

VP: UA - Lauren McNiven

Yusuf Faqiri has been, in my opinion, wrongly criticized for being homophobic and anti-Semitic. We all make mistakes, and Faqiri has made honest efforts to rebuild his image as a tolerant, caring individual. He is running a campaign

aimed at increasing tolerance and maintaining diversity on campus. Yet when asked at the open forum if he had taken Positive Space training, Yusuf answered he had not as of yet but was planning on it regardless of the election outcome. However, at the 2005 Open Forum as a BOD candidate, he said that he was currently taking Positive Space training. If protecting diversity is important to you, Lauren is clearly the superior candidate.



Tony Ferguson - News Editor

President - Dan Allison

This is a difficult endorsement to write. Both Dan Allison and Dan Hocking's experience with WLUSU is worthy of moving them up to presidential status and their platforms are comprehensive and have a clear vision. They are on the same page in many cases in terms of campus improvements such student accommodation in the renovation of University Stadium and additional space for student services. However, Dan Allison's platform touches more on issues of diversity,

which I think are becoming more important as the school plans to internationalize through the Century Plan.

VP: UA - Lauren McNiven

It was apparent right from the start of both candidates' opening speeches at the open forum that Lauren McNiven had a clearer understanding of the expectations of the vice president: university affairs position. Her opponent, Yusuf Faqiri, who has a year of experience on McNiven with the Board of Direc-

tors, struggled to demonstrate his accomplishments. When a member of the audience asked both candidates to list what they had specifically accomplished in their tenures on the Board of Directors, McNiven was able to list several specifics such as implementing more vegan and allergy-free meal options on campus, lobbying the government with issues of post-secondary education and compiling her director platform. Faqiri was unable to give a satisfactory answer.



Blair Forsyth-Stark - Opinion Editor

President - Dan Allison

For the first time in the last four years there is no clear frontrunner in this year's presidential candidates. Both Dan Allison and Dan Hocking have previous WLUSU experience, provided similar platforms and presented themselves well at the open forum. Both candidates would make excellent WLUSU presidents and students should feel secure knowing that an informed vote for either candidate would not be wasted. Who you should vote for ultimately comes down to what you value more in a president. Hocking

has a diverse set of ideas and the knowledge and experience to realize them whereas Allison has a warm, inviting personality that would make students comfortable in approaching him. Ultimately, Allison's diverse experience that's not specific to WLUSU as well as his inviting personality make him my choice for WLUSU president.

VP: UA - Lauren McNiven

Anyone with even a shred of common sense would agree that Lauren McNiven is the only choice for vice president: university affairs.

Her platform demonstrates a solid knowledge and understanding of the roles and capabilities of the VP:UA unlike her opponent, Yusuf Faqiri. McNiven's performance at yesterday's open forum was impressive, to say the least. Her answers to questions were specific and touched upon knowledge of OUSA and CASA, while her opponent resorted to calling the forum "a comedy show" and failed to provide one specific example of what he had done or would do.



April Robinson - Cord Editor-in-Chief

President - Dan Hocking

Although it seems all too formulaic to have a member of the management committee slide into the role of president, Dan Hocking is my pick. He not only deserves the position due to the countless hours he has put into committees and student representation over the past two years, but his track record proves he will get things done. Hocking has a strong knowledge of several aspects of WLUSU, including both operations and govern-

nance. He also has a good grasp on how the university's vision will affect undergraduate students and he will act in the interest of students as Laurier evolves.

VP: UA - Lauren McNiven

McNiven is clearly the best choice for VP:UA. She works tirelessly for students, going above and beyond her role as vice-chair of the board. She already has ties to a fundamental lobbying group, OUSA, and has an acute awareness of student

needs. She has a good understanding of what the role will entail. I like her tangible ideas: a sort of JAC for academics, the creation of a new role for better student representation at the municipal level and addressing environmental concerns at this university. Her opponent lacks any focus in his promises and has done a poor job of convincing me that his passion would carry him through.



Alex Hundert - Blueprint Editor-in-Chief

President - Dan Allison

Our next WLUSU president is going to be a popular frat boy named Dan. That's a guarantee, and the truth is, either Dan would make a good president. That being said, we have to elect one of them. Both have very similar platforms and goals. Both candidates seem very capable and very committed. However, while Dan Hocking does have more experience with WLUSU management, I believe that as the current VP: Marketing, he must be held accountable for what can be

described as a "marketing failure," in the inability to draw enough candidates for a BOD election this year.

VP: UA - Lauren McNiven

I wanted to endorse Yusuf Faqiri for this position. He is intelligent, passionate, driven, and (despite what some people might have you believe) he is also very committed to WLUSU. I believe that Yusuf would be a powerful advocate for diversity, environmental issues, student rights, and for students in gen-

eral, and that he takes the notion of democratic representation very seriously. He is also the candidate more likely to challenge the status quo in WLUSU. However, at the end of the day, I think that Lauren McNiven will do a better job in the role of VP:UA. When Faqiri claimed (at the open forum) that McNiven had nothing to offer the position - a preposterous and undefendable position - he displayed that he does not have the professionalism to warrant picking him over such a qualified candidate.

On February 1st, 2007, the members of the Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union will be asked the following referendum question on the election ballot...

05/06

NOTICE OF Referendum

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Statement of Financial Position April 30th, 2006

Assets	Total 2006	Total 2005
Cash	\$1,298,168	\$1,371,618
Cash-restricted	91,007	211,970
Accounts receivable	136,656	33,290
Inventory	62,814	95,244
Due from WLU	0	586,015
Prepaid expenses	61,357	101,167
	1,650,072	2,399,304
Capital Assets	4,740,576	3,596,496
Other	4,00	3,900
	4,744,576	3,600,396
	\$6,394,648	\$5,999,700

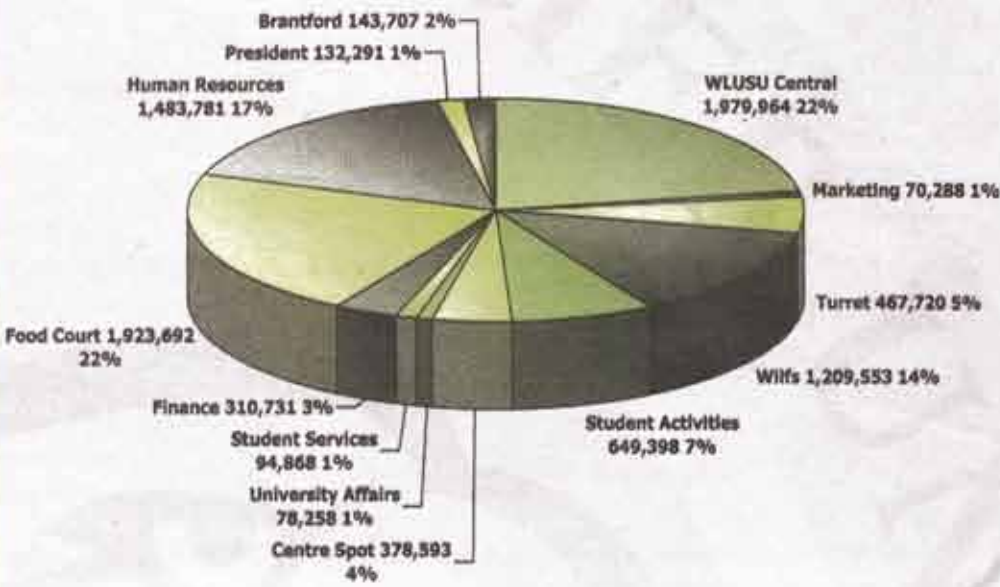
Liabilities	Total 2006	Total 2005
Bank indebtedness	\$0	\$778,838
Accounts payable and accrued charges	1,608,604	854,280
Due to WLU	228,016	0
Short-term debt	0	840,120
Current portion of long-term debt	422,230	182,991
	2,258,850	2,656,229
Obligation under capital lease	13,763	18,384
Long-term debt	1,800,458	1,144,832
	4,073,071	3,819,481
Internally restricted	91,077	211,970
Unrestricted	2,230,500	1,968,285
	2,231,577	2,180,255
	\$6,394,648	\$5,999,736

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Statement of Operations April 30th, 2006

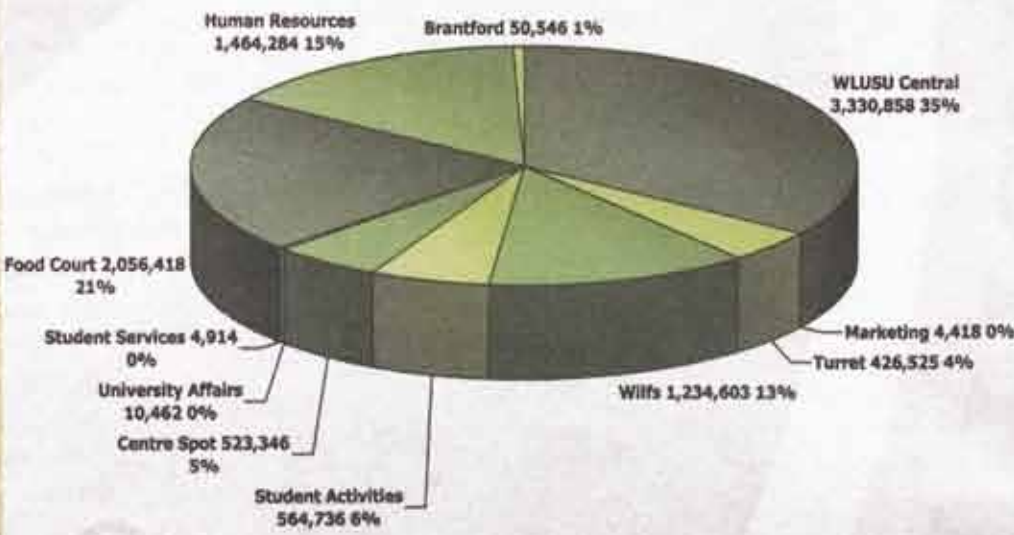
Revenues	\$9,671,110	\$7,390,364
Expenses	8,922,884	6,555,794
Excess of revenues over expenses before other expenses	748,266	834,570
Other Expenses		
Amortization of capital assets	535,302	405,537
Amortization of other assets	4,900	3,900
interest in long-term debt	66,742	69,032
	606,944	478,469
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$141,322	\$356,101

"Be it resolved that the 2005/2006 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's audited statements be approved as presented?"

2005-2006 Schedule of Expenses



2005-2006 Schedule of Revenues



For more information in regards to the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union audited financial statements, please contact the Vice President: Finance and Administration (mbasir@wlu.ca)

